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STAR TREK®

A
MARVEL
SUPER
SPECIAL
MAGAZINE

THE MOTION PICTURE

The official
comics
adaptation of
the smash
PARAMOUNT
FILM!



Also:
SPECIAL PHOTOS, FEATURES,
INTERVIEWS, ART AND
A NEW CONCORDANCE!





Stan Lee Presents:

STAR TREK

THE MOTION PICTURE

Marvel Super Special #15

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Based on the screenplay by Harold Livingston,
Story by Alan Dean Foster and Gene Roddenberry, Produced by Paramount Pictures.

December 1979

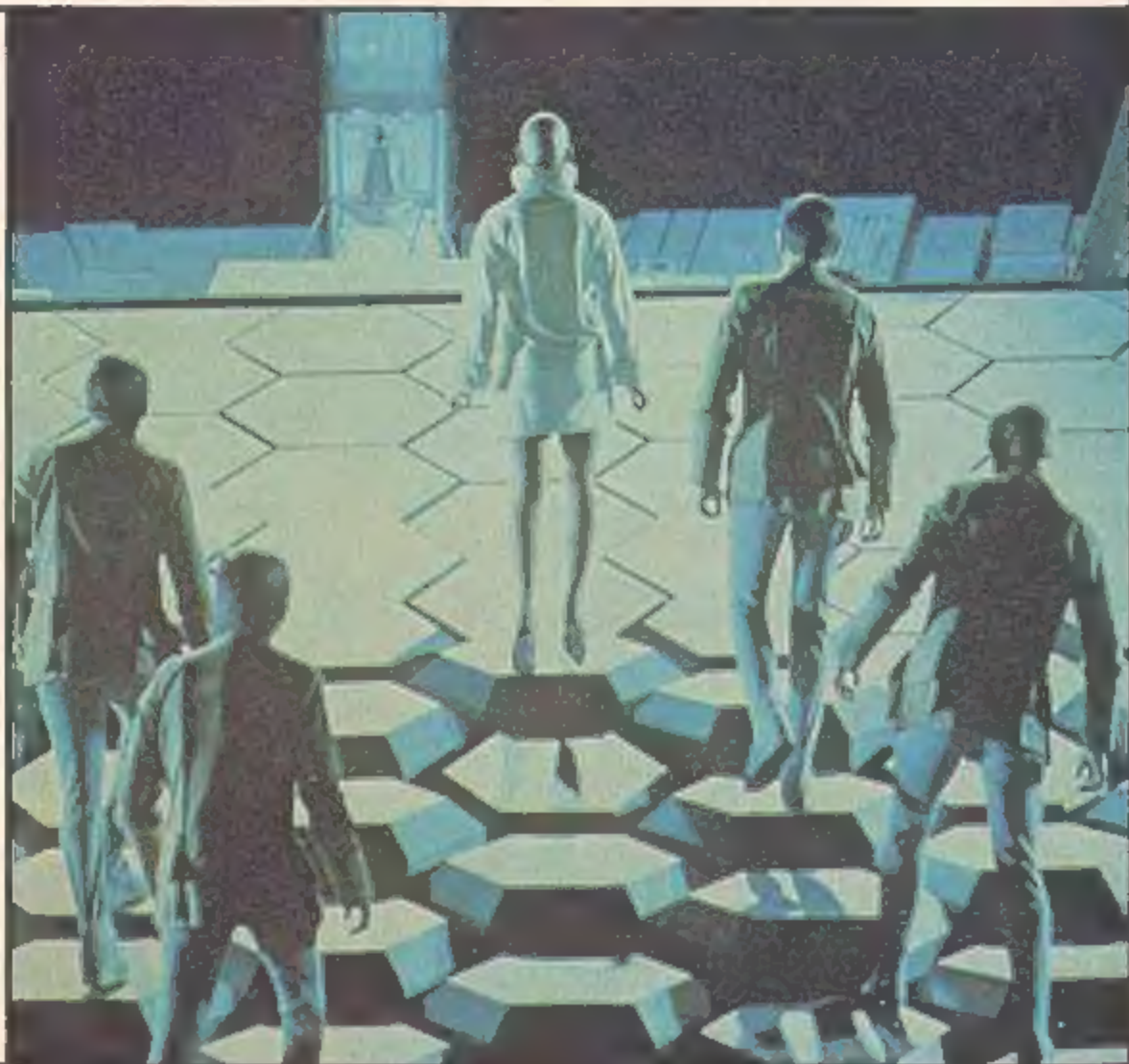
CONTENTS

STAR TREK—THE MOTION PICTURE 5
A Spectacular adaptation of Paramount
Pictures' Greatest Movie. Brought to you in
Marvelous Marvelcolor.

STAR TREK—THE PHENOMENON 57
The show that would not die—
its 13 year history.

TOUCHING BASE WITH REALITY 60
An interview with Jesco von Puttkamer,
science advisor to the STAR TREK movie.

STAR TREK—MOTION PICTURE GLOSSARY 62
A list of the new terminology and
explanations of the new characters.



YOUR
TO

The HULK

RYTHMS

RD GITTELSON
r April 3)

By JO

Aries (March 21-April 19) neglecting your talents. Your h activity. Invite fr

Taurus (April 20-May 20) positive, success into new environ patterns. Your g a former foe into

Gemini (May 21-June 20). Don't be

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A busy day when everyone needs your attention. Delegate authority. Don't overspend for your family to compensate for your busy lifestyle. A hug and a quiet chat at the day show your concern.

38, 49, 61, 72.... Easy hurt
39-48, 62-71.... Good day
50-60, 73-75.... Fatigue comes swiftly

66, 80.... Fragile
81-85.... An up day
Self-pity prevails

Coordination off
Peak mentality
Weigh decisions

Doesn't your local paper have The Hulk newspaper strip yet?

about you, the more they are let all your secret accomplishments known.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) ability has you worried totally in the right. worth the peace of mind. ness partner proposes a

TODAY'S BIRTH
must be met during this next keen. Surround people and self care. In business looms ahead.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) artists hear good tonight are in money and in the corner.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) first thing that to a co-worker. Prepar



BRIDGE

CHARLES GOREN and OMAR SHARIF

er vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 9
♥ K Q 3 2
♦ J 6
♣ Q 7 3

WEST	EAST
♠ J 5 3	♠ K 8 7 4
♥ J 9 7 6 4	♥ 10 8
♦ 4	♦ 10 9 7 2
♣ J 10 9 8	♣ A 5 4

Marvel's newest smash success is already thrilling readers in hundreds of cities—daily and Sunday!

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	4 NT	Pass	Pass
NT	Pass	Pass	Dble.
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Leading lead: Jack of clubs.

If your local editor has somehow missed the boat, tell him what he's missing—so you can join the millions of fans of the daily Hulk!

(Continued on page 17, col. 3)

Stan Lee and Larry Lieber bring to newspapers the most exciting, colorful, rampaging adventures of ol' greenskin yet!

Instant success. Independence in love is fine, but not in school or business.

The Incredible HULK®

by Stan Lee and Larry Lieber



Stan Lee
PRESENTS: A TWENTY-THIRD CENTURY ODYSSEY!

STAR TREK

THE MOTION
PICTURE



Based on the screenplay by Harold Livingston.
Story by Alan Dean Foster & Gene Roddenberry.
Produced by Paramount Pictures.

MARV WOLFMAN • DAVE COCKRUM & KLAUS JANSON • JOHN COSTANZA • MARIE SEVERIN • JIM SHOOTER & RICHARD MARSHALL
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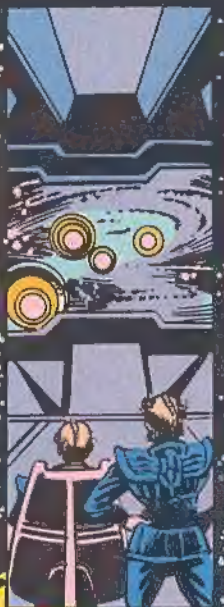
IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS DARKNESS...

THEN, GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE LIGHT!"



<GIVE ME
TACTICAL!>

<STAND BY
ON PHOTON
TORPEDOES--
NOW!>



<FULL
FORCEFIELDS!
EVASIVE
MANEUVERS--
QUICKLY!>



...AND THE
LIGHT WAS
GOOD!

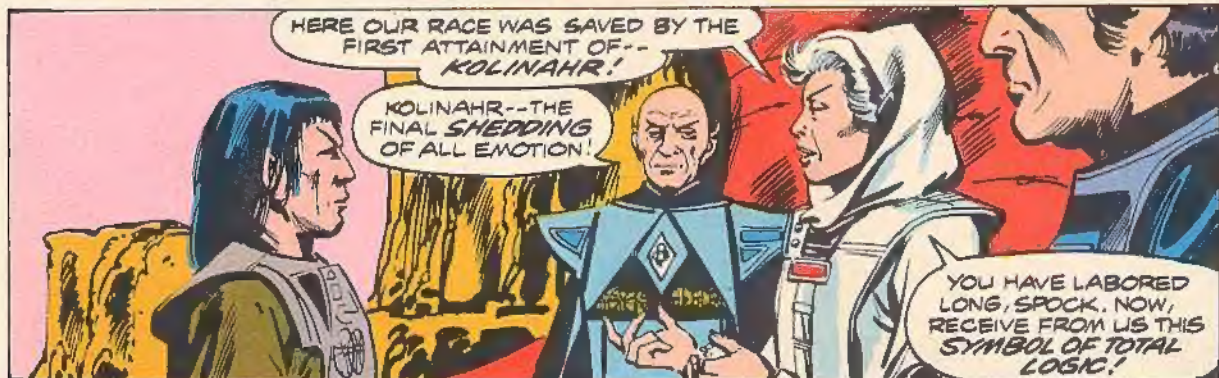


THE HARSH
PLANET
VULCAN,
MORE THAN
A GALAXY
AFAR...

SPOCK, SON OF
SAREK OF VULCAN,
AND AMANDA OF
EARTH--

--DILIGENTLY YOU HAVE
LABORED FOR PURIFICATION
OF MIND...

HERE ON THESE
SANDS, OUR
FOREBEARERS
CAST OUT THEIR
ANIMAL
PASSIONS.



HERE OUR RACE WAS SAVED BY THE
FIRST ATTAINMENT OF--
KOLINAHR!

KOLINAHR--THE
FINAL SHEDDING
OF ALL EMOTION!

YOU HAVE LABORED
LONG, SPOCK. NOW,
RECEIVE FROM US THIS
SYMBOL OF TOTAL
LOGIC!



BUT...

OUR MINDS, ALSO, HAVE FELT THAT FAR
OFF 'PRESENCE,' SPOCK, HAS IT ANY
SPECIAL MEANING TO YOU?

SILENCE.

COME,
SPOCK--
GIVE ME
YOUR
THOUGHTS!

THE MASTER GENTLY LAYS HER
SLENDER HAND ON THE LEAN
VULCAN'S TEMPLE, THOUGHTS
HIDDEN AND LONG SUBMERGED
EBB AND FLOW LIKE THE CRASHING
SURF...



THIS
CONSCIOUSNESS
STIRS YOUR
HUMAN HALF,
SPOCK.



YOU HAVE **NOT** ACHIEVED
KOLINAHR-- YOUR HUMAN
EMOTIONS ARE NOT FULLY
EXTINGUISHED.

HE WILL NOT
ACHIEVE HIS GOAL
WITH US, HIS ANSWER
LIES ELSEWHERE.



EXPRESSIONLESS, THE
TALL VULCAN WAITS AS
THE THREE MASTERS
LEAVE.

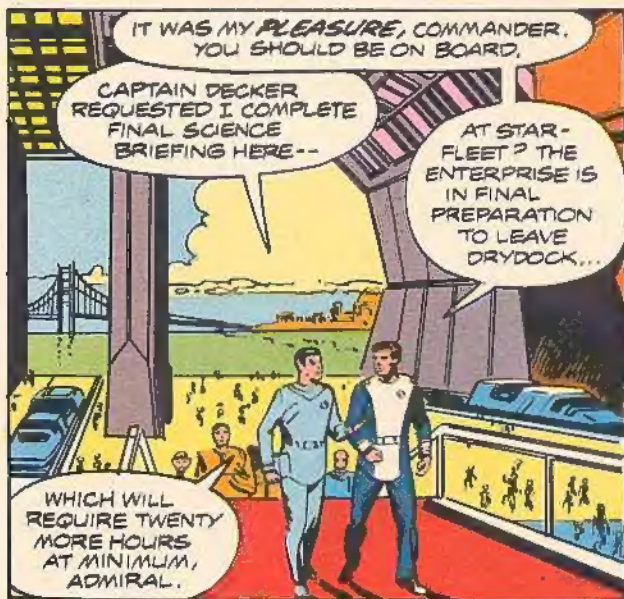
THEN, A FAINT TROUBLED
LINE CREASES HIS BROW...



STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS, SAN FRANCISCO, EARTH...

COMMANDER SONAK, YOU'VE RECEIVED YOUR APPOINTMENT AS ENTERPRISE SCIENCE OFFICER?

BASED, I AM TOLD, ON YOUR RECOMMENDATION, ADMIRAL KIRK, I THANK YOU.



IT WAS MY PLEASURE, COMMANDER. YOU SHOULD BE ON BOARD.

CAPTAIN DECKER REQUESTED I COMPLETE FINAL SCIENCE BRIEFING HERE--

AT STAR-FLEET? THE ENTERPRISE IS IN FINAL PREPARATION TO LEAVE DRYDOCK...

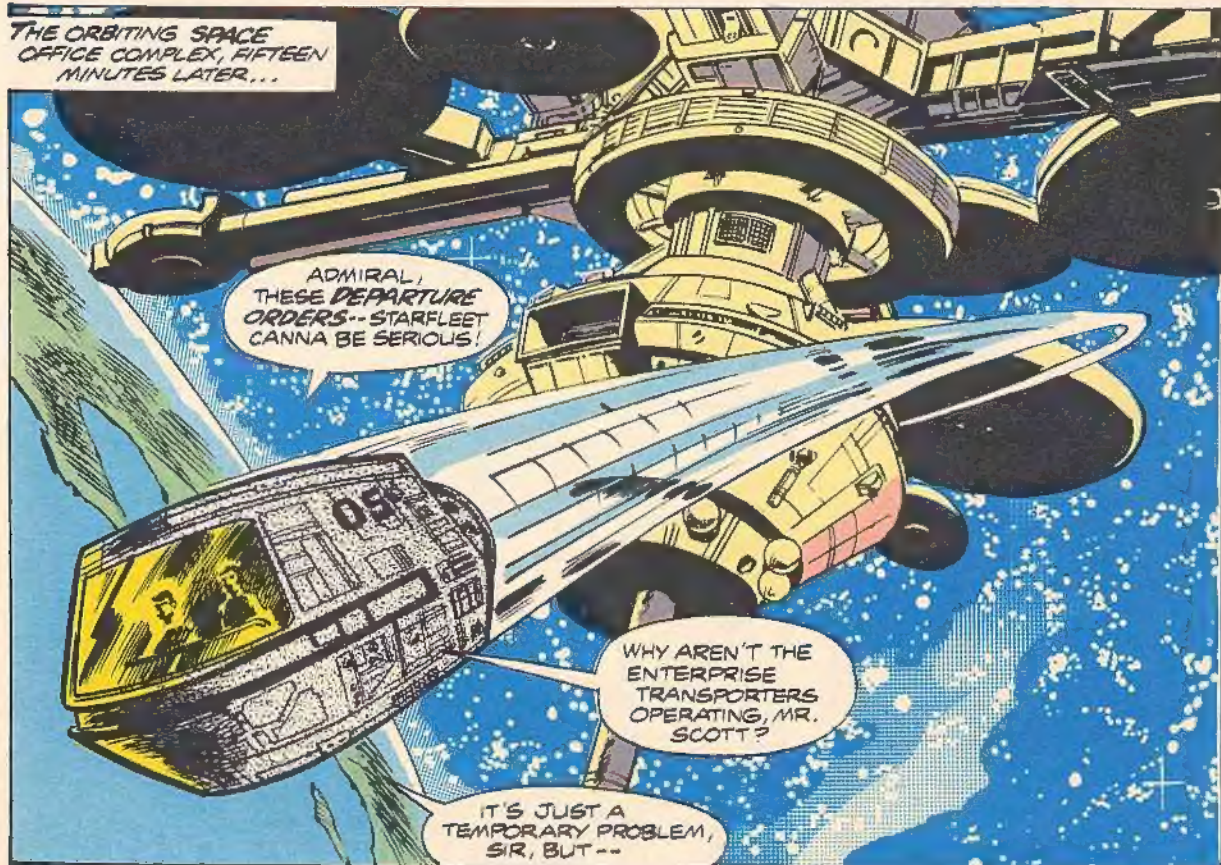
WHICH WILL REQUIRE TWENTY MORE HOURS AT MINIMUM, ADMIRAL.



TWELVE! I'M ON MY WAY TO A MEETING WHICH WILL NOT LAST MORE THAN **THREE MINUTES**. REPORT TO ME ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE IN **ONE HOUR**.

TO YOU, SIR?

I...INTEND TO BE THERE FOLLOWING THAT MEETING.



THE ORBITING SPACE OFFICE COMPLEX, FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

ADMIRAL, THESE DEPARTURE ORDERS--STARFLEET CANNOT BE SERIOUS!

WHY AREN'T THE ENTERPRISE TRANSPORTERS OPERATING, MR. SCOTT?

IT'S JUST A TEMPORARY PROBLEM, SIR, BUT --

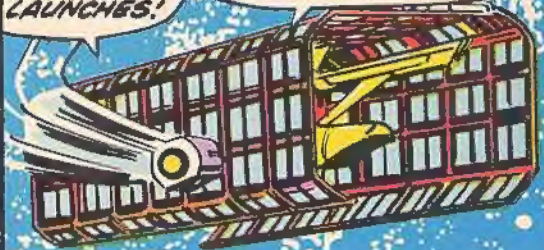
ADMIRAL, WE'VE JUS' SPEN' EIGHTEEN MONTHS REFI'IN' THE ENTERPRISE. YE JUS' CANNA EXPECT 'ER READY IN TWELVE HOURS!

MR. SCOTT, AN ALIEN OBJECT OF UNBELIEVABLE POWER IS LESS THAN THREE DAYS AWAY FROM THIS PLANET.

THE ONLY STARSHIP WITHIN INTERCEPTION RANGE IS THE ENTERPRISE.

READY OR NOT--SHE LAUNCHES!

AYE, SIR--BUT YE MUS' KNOW THE CREW HASN'T HAD NEAR ENOUGH TRANSITION TIME. AN' THE ENGINES--THEY HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN TESTED AT WARP SPEEDS.



ADD TO THAT, ADMIRAL-- WE HAVE AN UNTRIED CAPTAIN--

TWO AND HALF YEARS AS CHIEF OF STARFLEET MAY HAVE MADE ME A LITTLE STALE, MR. SCOTT...

...BUT I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CONSIDER MYSELF 'UNTRIED.'

A-ADMIRAL--?

THEY GAVE HER BACK TO ME, SCOTTY.

'SAVE' HER BACK, SIR? I DOUBT IT WAS THAT EASY.

BU' ANY MAN WHO COULD MANAGE SUCH A FEAT, I WOULDN'A DARE DISAPPOIN'.

SHE'LL LAUNCH ON TIME, SIR.

AN' SHE'LL BE READY!

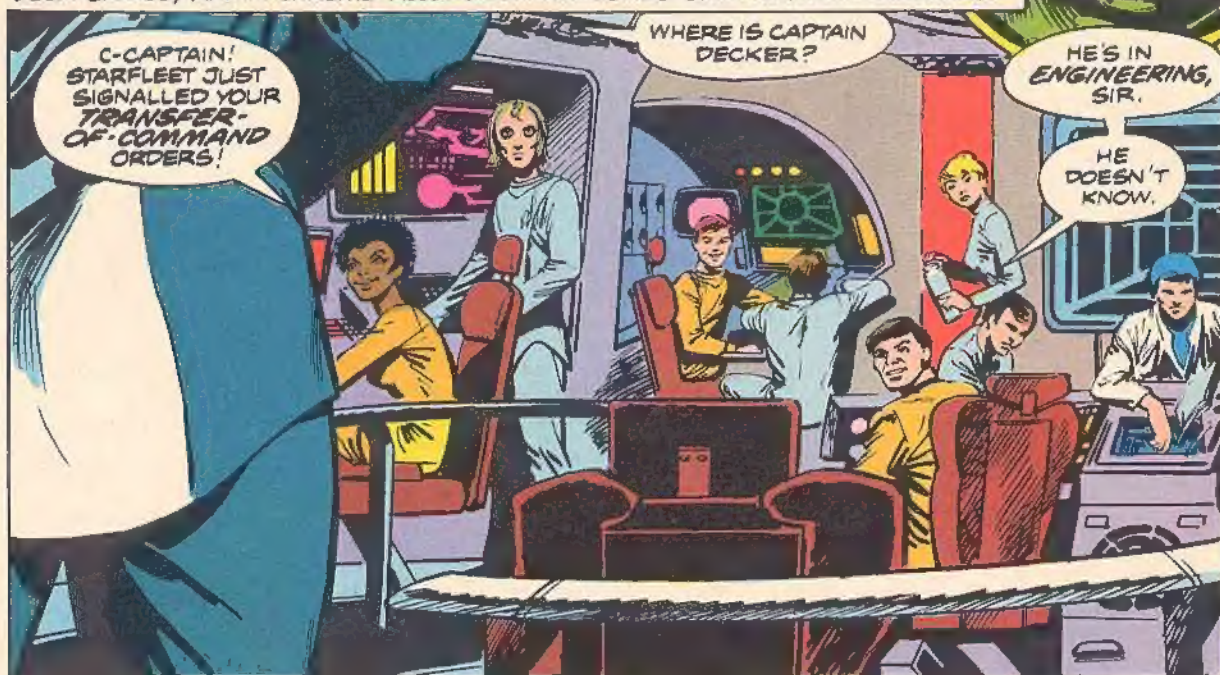
THE SMALL TRAVEL POD SKIMS THE SURFACE OF THE GIANT DRYDOCK CONSTRUCTION. A GLINT OF SILVER REFLECTS SUNLIGHT THROUGH ITS STEEL FILIGREE FRAME.

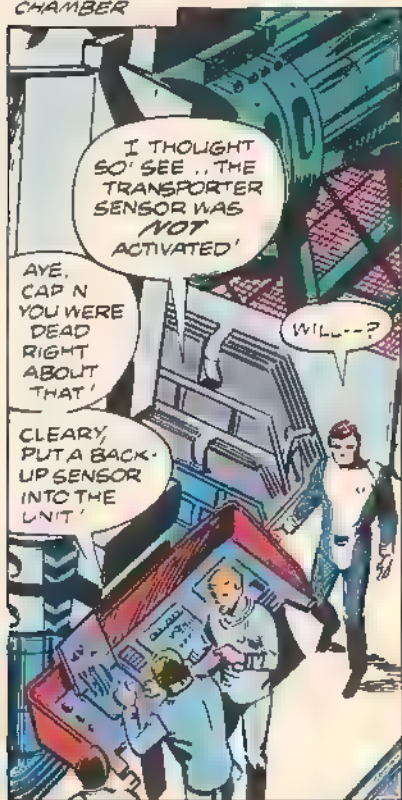
THEN, ALL AT ONCE, KIRK SEES IT, AND A THOUSAND UNNAMABLE EMOTIONS SWELL UP WITHIN HIM. THE AWE, THE WONDER, THE ROMANCE, THE OBSESSION FILL HIS HEART ONCE AGAIN.

AFTER ALL TOO MANY TIRING DAYS OF PAPER-FILLED DRUDGERY, HE IS BECOMING ONCE MORE FULLY ALIVE.

THE ENTERPRISE IS HIS!

MEMORIES NEVER TRULY FORGOTTEN FLARE STRONGER AS KIRK PROUDLY STRIDES THROUGH THE REFURBISHED ENTERPRISE HALLWAYS. A HIGH SPEED ELEVATOR WHISKS HIM TOWARD THE UPPER-DECK BRIDGE, AND A CHROME-ALLOY DOOR WHOOSHES OPEN AT HIS PRESENCE...





I THOUGHT SO! SEE... THE TRANSPORTER SENSOR WAS **NOT** ACTIVATED!

AYE, CAP N YOU WERE DEAD RIGHT ABOUT THAT!

CLEARLY, PUT A BACK-UP SENSOR INTO THE UNIT!

WILL--?



ADMIRAL KIRK? WE'RE GETTING A TOP-BRASS SEND OFF?

I-I'M TAKING THE **CENTER SEAT**. I'M SORRY, WILL.

YOU ARE WHAT?

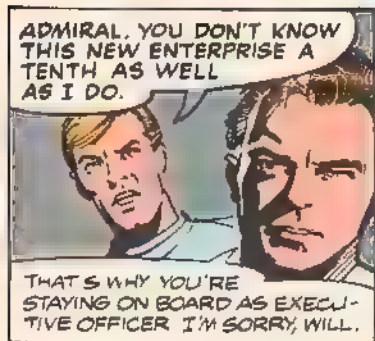


I'M REPLACING YOU AS CAPTAIN OF THE ENTERPRISE.

YOU **PERSONALLY**, ARE ASSUMING COMMAND? WHY?

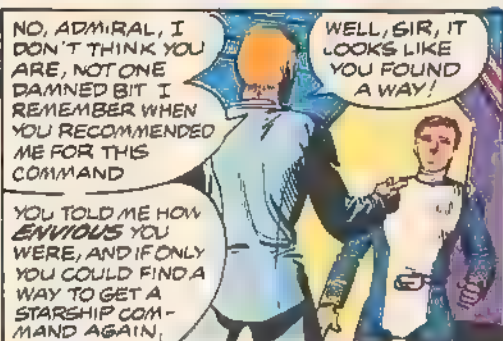
MY EXPERIENCE... FIVE YEARS OUT THERE DEALING WITH **UNKNOWN**S LIKE THIS.

MY FAMILIARITY WITH THE ENTERPRISE. THIS CREW



ADMIRAL, YOU DON'T KNOW THIS NEW ENTERPRISE A TENTH AS WELL AS I DO.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE STAYING ON BOARD AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER. I'M SORRY, WILL.



NO, ADMIRAL, I DON'T THINK YOU ARE, NOT ONE DAMNED BIT! I REMEMBER WHEN YOU RECOMMENDED ME FOR THIS COMMAND

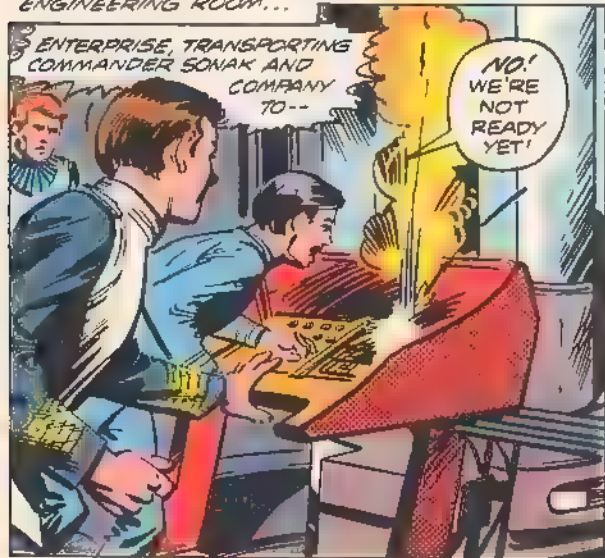
YOU TOLD ME HOW **ENVIDIOUS** YOU WERE, AND IF ONLY YOU COULD FIND A WAY TO GET A STARSHIP COMMAND AGAIN,

WELL, SIR, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU FOUND A WAY!



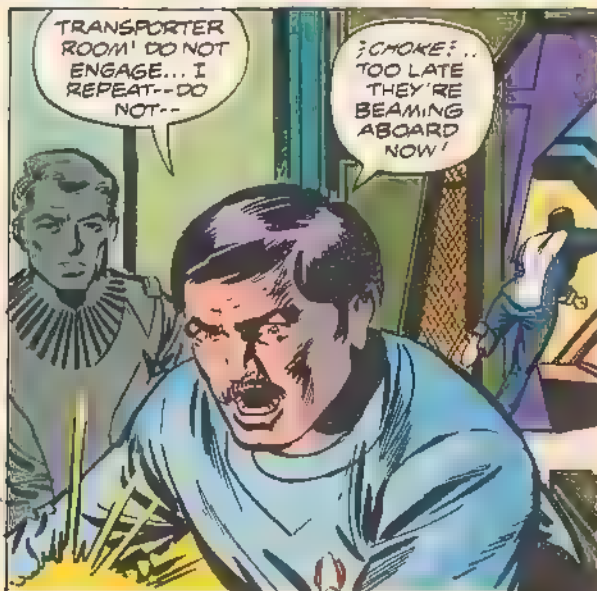
THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED FOR DISCUSSION, COMMANDER REPORT TO THE BRIDGE--**IMMEDIATELY!**

AS AN ANGRY WILL DECKER STALKS FROM THE ENGINEERING ROOM...



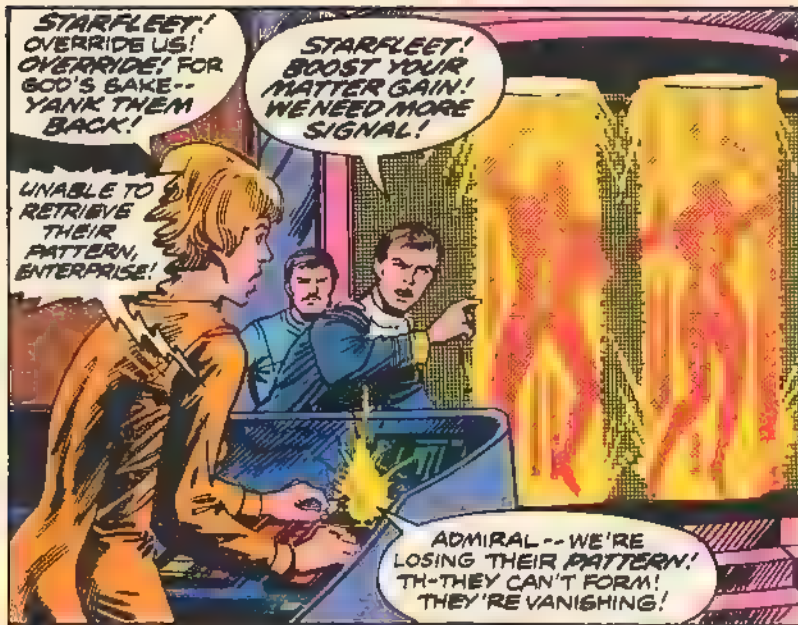
ENTERPRISE, TRANSPORTING COMMANDER SONAK AND COMPANY TO--

NO! WE'RE NOT READY YET!



TRANSPORTER ROOM! DO NOT ENGAGE... I REPEAT--DO NOT--

!CHOKES!... TOO LATE THEY'RE BEAMING ABOARD NOW!



STARFLEET!
OVERRIDE US!
OVERRIDE! FOR
GOD'S SAKE--
YANK THEM
BACK!

STARFLEET!
BOOST YOUR
MATTER GAIN!
WE NEED MORE
SIGNAL!

UNABLE TO
RETRIEVE
THEIR
PATTERN,
ENTERPRISE!

ADMIRAL--WE'RE
LOSING THEIR PATTERN!
TH-THEY CAN'T FORM!
THEY'RE VANISHING!



STARFLEET... DO
YOU HAVE THEM?

E-ENTERPRISE...
WH-WHAT WE GOT
BACK... DIDN'T
LIVE LONG...
FORTUNATELY...

A HEAVY,
BROODING
SILENCE
HANGS OVER
THE ENTER-
PRISE
TRANSPORTER
ROOM AS KIRK
QUIETLY
MUMBLES A
SAD PRAYER
TO COMMAN-
DER SONAK'S
MEMORY.
THEN...

THERE WAS
NOTHING YOU
COULD HAVE
DONE, RAND...
IT WASN'T
YOUR FAULT.



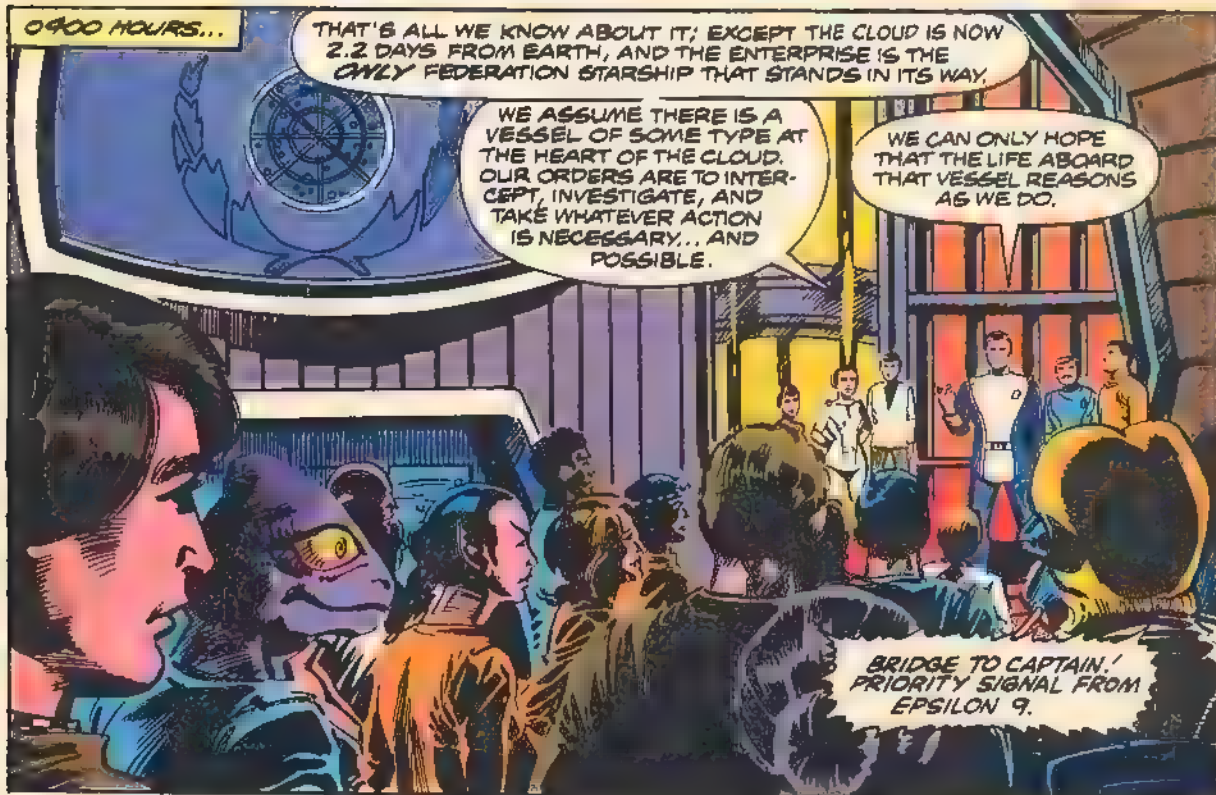
BUT, FOR MORE THAN
AN HOUR, THE GIANT
STARSHIP IS SHROUDED
IN RESPECTFUL
SILENCE...

0900 HOURS...

THAT'S ALL WE KNOW ABOUT IT; EXCEPT THE CLOUD IS NOW
2.2 DAYS FROM EARTH, AND THE ENTERPRISE IS THE
ONLY FEDERATION STARSHIP THAT STANDS IN ITS WAY.

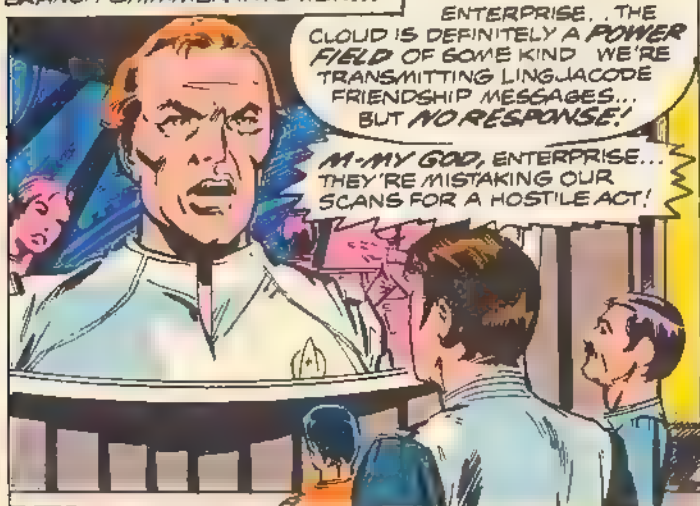
WE ASSUME THERE IS A
VESSEL OF SOME TYPE AT
THE HEART OF THE CLOUD.
OUR ORDERS ARE TO INTER-
CEPT, INVESTIGATE, AND
TAKE WHATEVER ACTION
IS NECESSARY... AND
POSSIBLE.

WE CAN ONLY HOPE
THAT THE LIFE ABOARD
THAT VESSEL REASONS
AS WE DO.



BRIDGE TO CAPTAIN!
PRIORITY SIGNAL FROM
EPSILON 9.

ALL EYES TURN TO THE ENTERPRISE MONITOR SCREENS AS THE ANGLISHED FEATURES OF EPSILON NINE COMMANDER BRANCH SHIMMER INTO VIEW...



ENTERPRISE... THE CLOUD IS DEFINITELY A POWER FIELD OF SOME KIND. WE'RE TRANSMITTING LINGJACODE FRIENDSHIP MESSAGES... BUT NO RESPONSE!

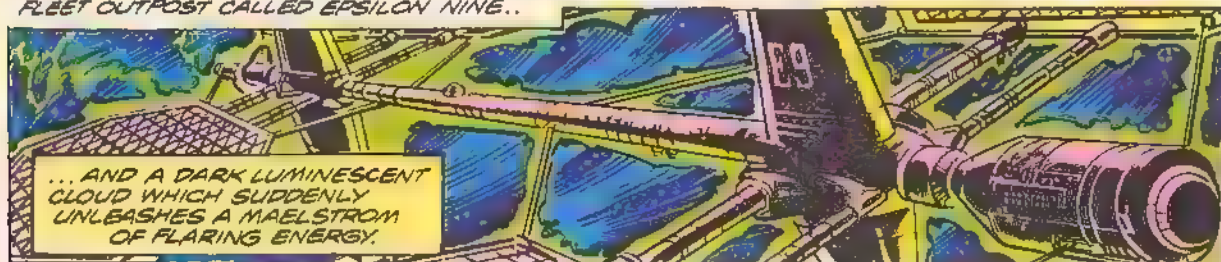
M-MY GOD, ENTERPRISE... THEY'RE MISTAKING OUR SCANS FOR A HOSTILE ACT!



DEFLECTORS!
E-ENTERPRISE...
WE'RE UNDER
ATTACK!

UHURA!
EXTERNAL VIEW--
QUICKLY!!

AGAIN THE VIEWER SHIMMERS, AND BRANCH'S IMAGE IS REPLACED WITH THE ORBITTING STAR FLEET OUTPOST CALLED EPSILON NINE...



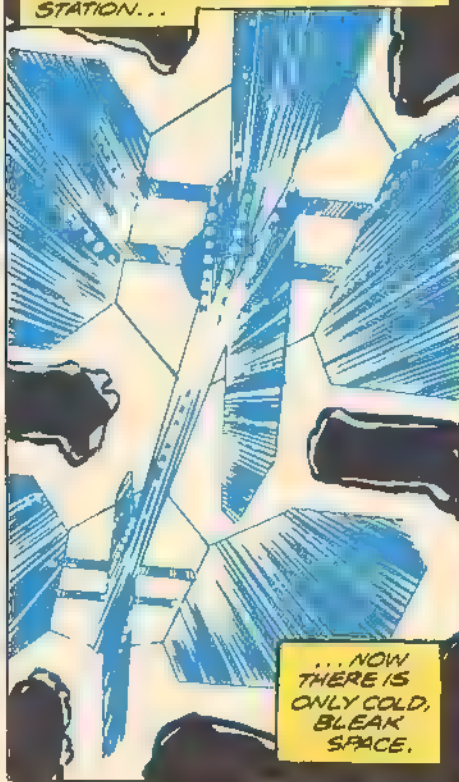
... AND A DARK LUMINESCENT CLOUD WHICH SUDDENLY UNLEASHES A MAELSTROM OF FLARING ENERGY.

FOR A MOMENT, THE ENTERPRISE CREW WATCHES IN TOTAL FASCINATION...



... WHICH, LESS THAN AN INSTANT LATER, SOURS TO HORROR AND REVULSION!

WHERE ONLY A MOMENT BEFORE THERE WAS A PROUD MONITORING STATION...

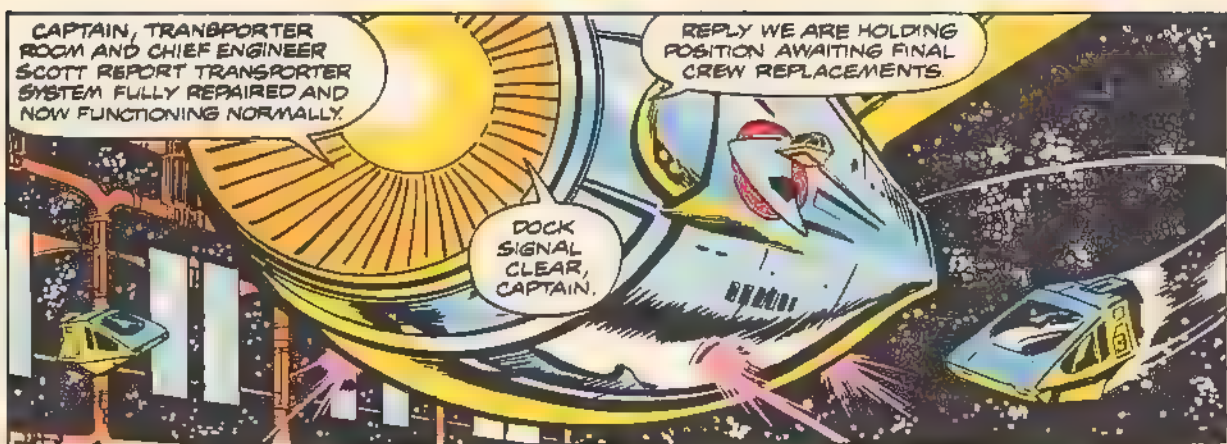


... NOW THERE IS ONLY COLD, BLEAK SPACE.

AND EVEN STARSHIP CAPTAIN JAMES T. KIRK IS AT A LOSS FOR ANY COMFORTING WORDS...



PRE-VIEWER LAUNCH COUNT-DOWN WILL COMMENCE IN FORTY MINUTES.



CAPTAIN, TRANSPORTER ROOM AND CHIEF ENGINEER SCOTT REPORT TRANSPORTER SYSTEM FULLY REPAIRED AND NOW FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.

REPLY WE ARE HOLDING POSITION AWAITING FINAL CREW REPLACEMENTS.

DOCK SIGNAL CLEAR, CAPTAIN.

CAPTAIN! TRANSPORTER PERSONNEL REPORTS THE NAVIGATOR, JUNIOR GRADE ILIA IS ALREADY ABOARD AND EN ROUTE TO THE BRIDGE.

ALL BRIDGE CHATTER SUDDENLY CEASES, ALL EYES RIVET ON THE TALL, STATUESQUE DELTAN STANDING SENSUOUSLY IN THE ELEVATOR DOORWAY.

CAPTAIN--SHE'S A... *DELTAN*!

I'M AWARE OF THAT, COMMANDER--AND THERE'S NO FINER NAVIGATOR IN STARFLEET--

LIEUTENANT ILIA REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR.

THE AWKWARD SILENCE LINGERS A VERY LONG MOMENT, UNTIL...

HELLO, ILIA.

DECKER? I WAS STATIONED ON THE LIEUTENANT'S HOME PLANET SOME YEARS AGO, CAPTAIN.

YOUR STRIPES, DECKER--COMMANDER?

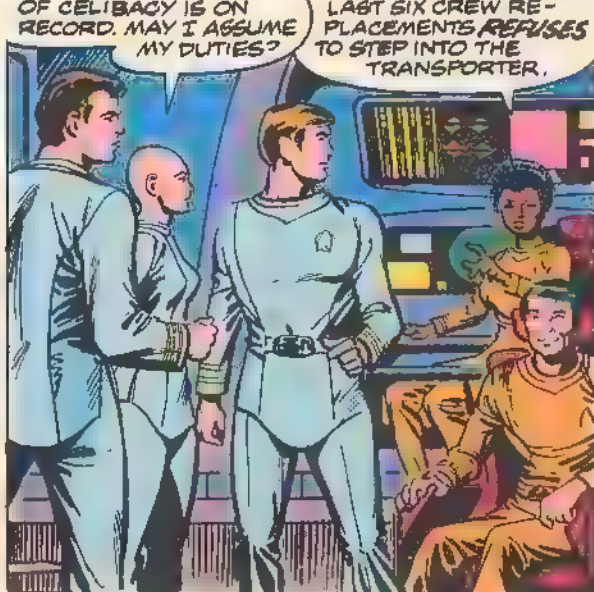
OUR EXEC AND SCIENCE OFFICER, LIEUTENANT.

CAPTAIN KIRK HAS, UHH-- THE UTMOST CONFIDENCE IN ME.

AND, IN YOU TOO, LIEUTENANT.

CAPTAIN, MY OATH OF CELIBACY IS ON RECORD. MAY I ASSUME MY DUTIES?

CAPTAIN! ONE OF THE LAST SIX CREW REPLACEMENTS REFUSES TO STEP INTO THE TRANSPORTER.



OH? I'LL SEE
THAT HE BEAMS
UP GOOD
MEETING YOU,
LIEUTENANT

THE CAPTAIN MEANT NO PERSONAL INSULT, ILIA.

YOU CAN
ASSURE HIM
THAT'S TRUE,
CAN'T YOU?

I WOULD HOPE NOT,
DECKER--I WOULD **NEVER**
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A
SEXUALLY *MINIATURE*
SPECIES.

CHIEF, WHAT WAS THE
PROBLEM DOWN HERE?

HE REFUSED TO
GO, CAPTAIN. SAID
SOMETHING ABOUT
FIRST SEEING HOW
IT SCRAMBLED
EVERYONE ELSE'S
MOLECULES.

IT FIGURES...
SOME
THINGS
NEVER
CHANGE.

STARFLEET, THIS IS CAPTAIN
KIRK. THE OFFICER IS TO
BE **BEAMED UP**--
IMMEDIATELY!

A FAINT HUM RUMBLES THROUGH
THE TRANSPORTER ROOM, AND...

WELL, FOR A MAN WHO
SWORE HE'D NEVER
RETURN TO STARFLEET...

BLAST IT,
CAPTAIN, YOUR
REVERED
ADMIRAL NOGURA
INVOKED A RE-
SERVE ACTIVATION
CLAUSE I WAS
DRAFTED!

THEY
DIDN'T
NOW, DID
THEY?

IT WAS
YOUR
IDEA,
WASN'T
IT?

BONES, THERE A
'THING' OUT THERE--

WHY IS ANY
OBJECT WE
DON'T UNDER-
STAND CALLED
A **THING**'S?

IT'S
HEADED
THIS
WAY.

JUST ONE THING,
CAPTAIN--WERE **YOU**
BEHIND THIS?

PLEASE,
BONES... I
NEED YOU...

...BADLY...

LEONARD MCCOY HESITATES
BEFORE TAKING KIRK'S EXTENDED
HAND. BUT, WHEN HE DOES, IT IS THE
LONG HANDCLASP OF TWO OLD
REUNITED FRIENDS...

FINALLY, AT LONG LAST

ALL DECKS THIS
IS THE CAPTAIN
PREPARE FOR
IMMEDIATE
DEPARTURE

ALL DECKS
PREPARE FOR
IMMEDIATE
DEPARTURE

ALL DECKS
PREPARE FOR
IMMEDIATE
DEPARTURE

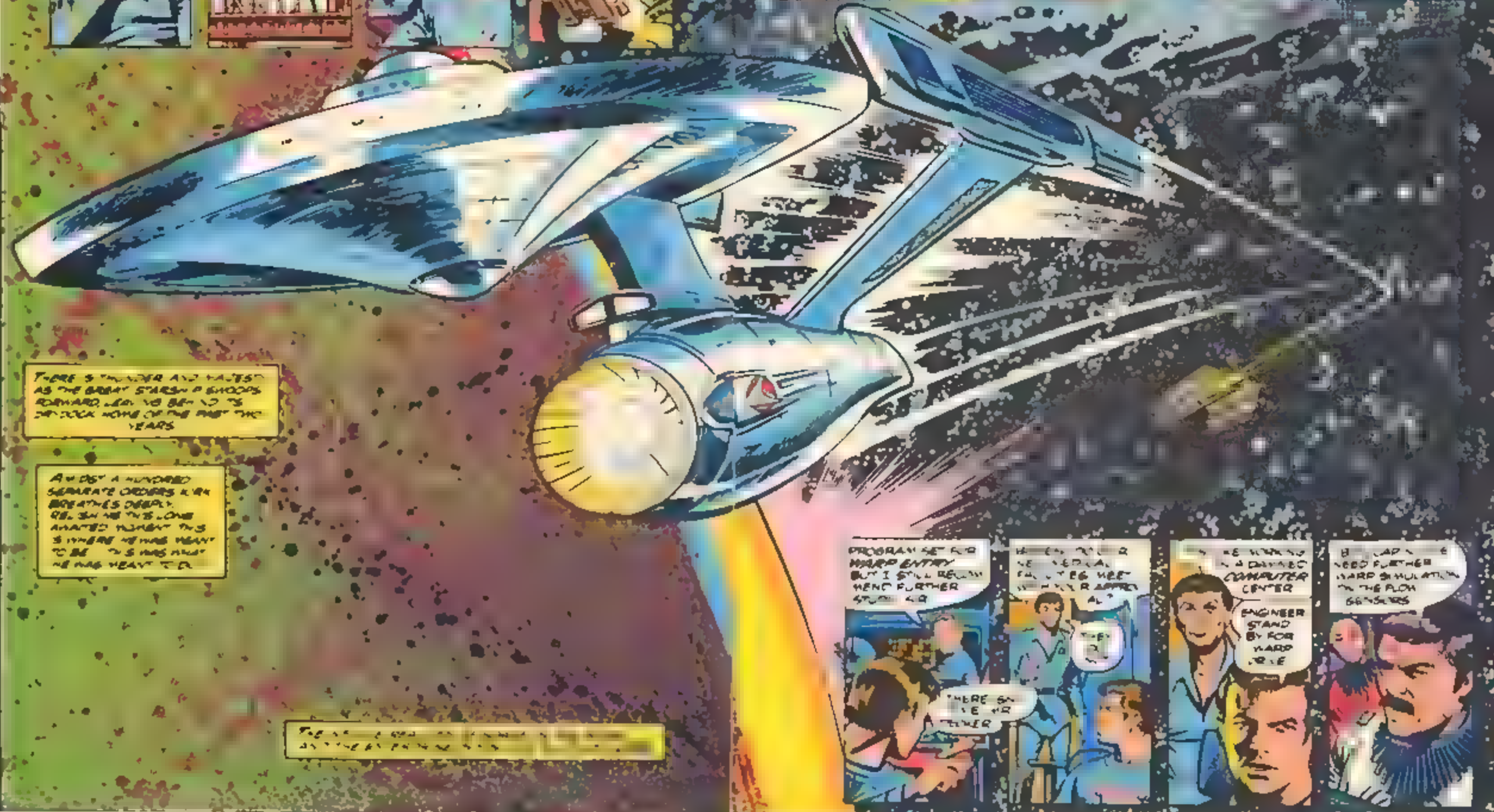
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IMMEDIATE
DEPARTURE

ALL DECKS
PREPARE FOR
IMMEDIATE
DEPARTURE

ALL DECKS
PREPARE FOR
IMMEDIATE
DEPARTURE



THERE'S THUNDER AND RAIN
AS THE GREAT STARS
POUNCE FORWARD
LEAVING BEHIND
THEIR DUSTY WINGS
OF THE PAST TWO
YEARS

AND BY A HUNDRED
SEPARATE ORDERS
BREATHE DEEP
BECAUSE THIS LONG
AWAITED MOMENT
THIS
IS WHERE HE HAS WAITED
TO BE THIS HAS WAITED
HE HAS WAITED

THEY ARE ALL
AT THE FRONT

PROGRAM SET FOR
HARD ENTRY
BUT I STILL BELIEVE
WENT FURTHER
STILL FOR

WHEN THE
VELOCITY
FALLS WE
WILL RAPIDLY

HE'S WORKING
IN A DIVERSE
COMPUTER
CENTER

HE'S CAPABLE
NEED FURTHER
HARD SIMULATION
IN THE FLIGHT
SENSORS



CAPTAIN'S LOG,
STARDATE 7412.6.

IN ORDER TO INTERCEPT THE INTRUDER AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME,
WE MUST NOW RISK ENGAGING WARP DRIVE WHILE STILL WITHIN THE SOLAR
SYSTEM...

ENGINEER,
WE NEED WARP
SPEED-- NOW!!

YOU'RE PUSHING,
JIM. YOUR PEOPLE
KNOW THEIR JOBS.

SO DO I,
BONES!

AYE, CAP'N, BU' IT'S
BORDERLINE ON THE
SIMULATOR I CANNA
GUARANTEE THAT SHE'LL--

WARP DRIVE,
MR SCOTT

AHEAD
WARP ONE,
MR SUJU

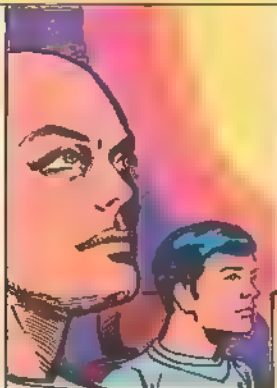
ACCELERATING
TO WARP ONE, SIR!

WARP POINT SEVEN .
POINT EIGHT.. NINE...

WARP
ONE, SIR!

SUDDENLY, SPACE BECOMES
A KALEIDOSCOPE OF
STREAKING STARS AND
PULSATING COLOR AS THE
ENTERPRISE MAKES THE
QUANTUM LEAP INTO WARP
DRIVE...

AN UNEASY SILENCE GRIPS THE BRIDGE CREW AS IF THEY ARE WAITING FOR SOME UNNAMED
TERROR TO REACH OUT AND GRAB THEM. FOR ANOTHER MOMENT ALL REMAIN TENSE..



THEN, ALL AT ONCE, THEY
RELAX, RELEASE THEIR
BREATHS, AND SETTLE BACK
FOR THE VOYAGE AHEAD...

BUT KIRK NEVER COMPLETES HIS THOUGHT, FOR--

MR
DECKER,
I--

WORMHOLE!

GET US BACK
ON IMPULSE POWER!
FULL REVERSE!

NEGATIVE
HELM
CONTROL,
CAPTAIN!
GOING
REVERSE
ON IMPULSE
POWER!

CAPTAIN!
SUBSPACE
FREQUENCIES
ARE
JAMMED!

WORMHOLE: A SUDDEN
SPIRALING OF STARS AND
FLUID LIGHT WHICH
NARROWS INTO A DEADLY,
INESCAPABLE VORTEX...

NEGATIVE CONTROL FROM INERTIAL LAG WILL
CONTINUE 22 POINT FIVE SECONDS

UNIDENTIFIED SMALL
OBJECT HAS BEEN PULLED
INTO THE WORMHOLE
WITH US, CAPTAIN!
DIRECTLY
AHEAD!

FORCEFIELD UP
FULL! PUT OBJECT
ON THE VIEWER!

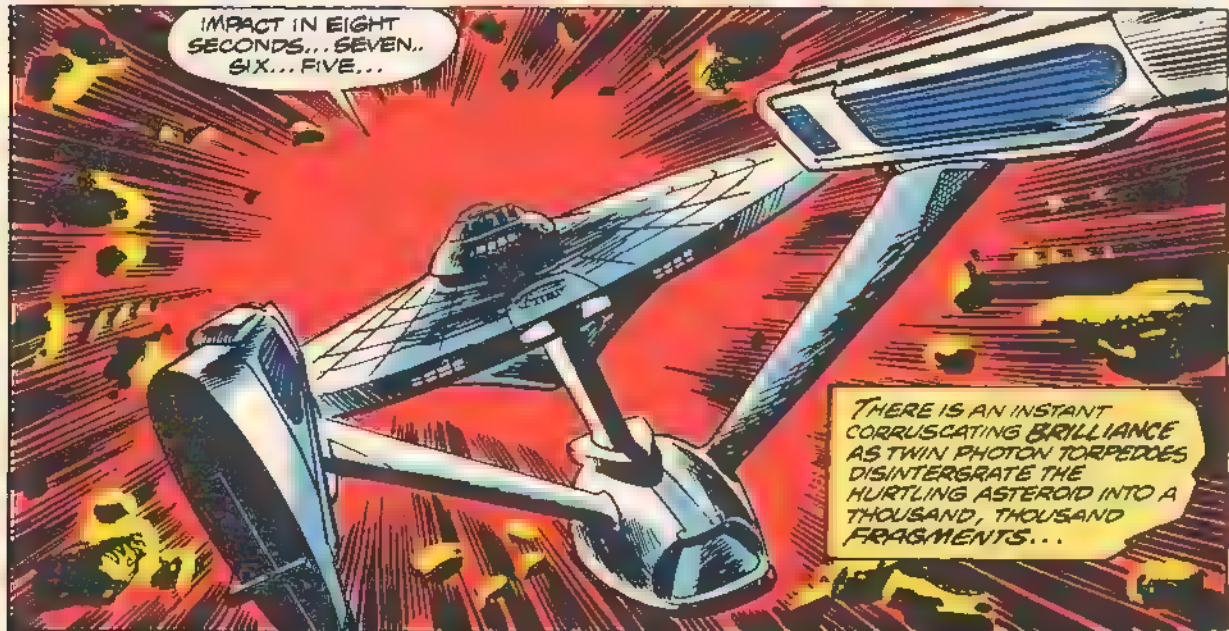
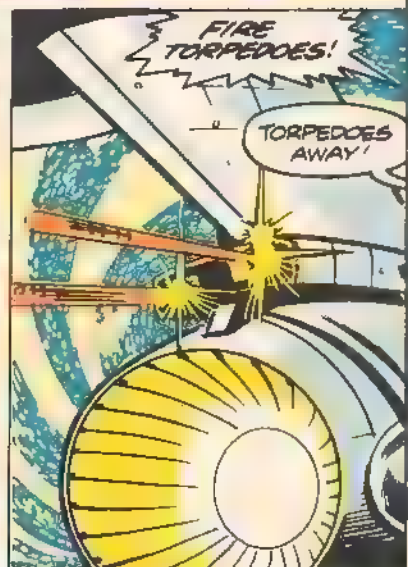
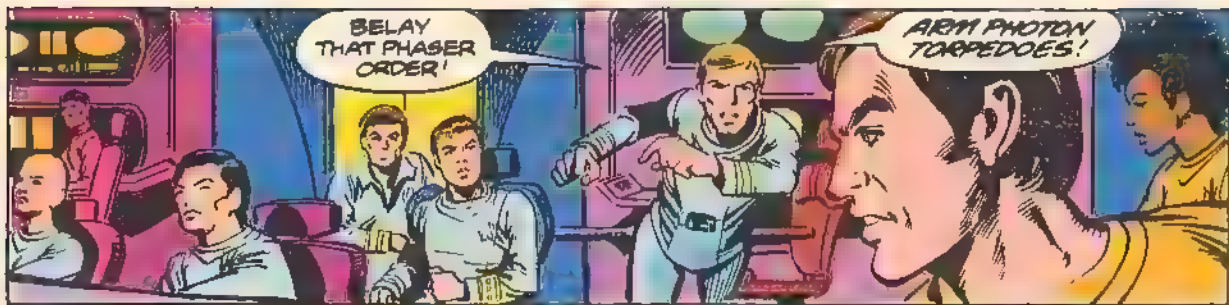
NAVIGATIONAL
DEFLECTORS
INOPERATIVE!
DIRECTIONAL
CONTROL ALSO
INOPERATIVE,
CAPTAIN!

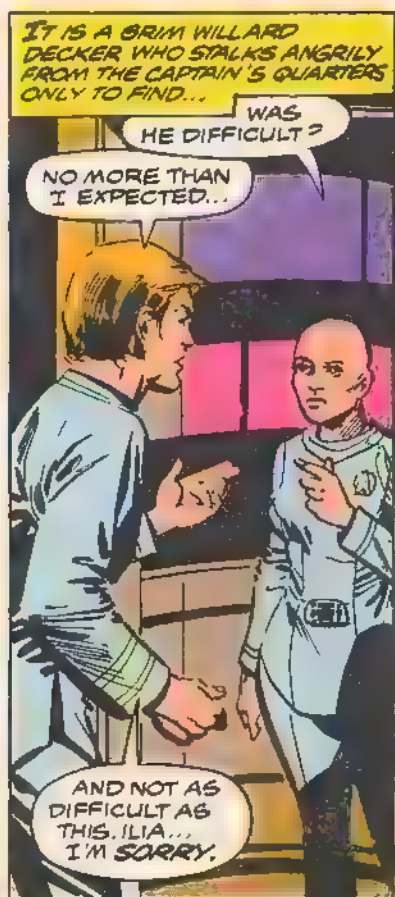
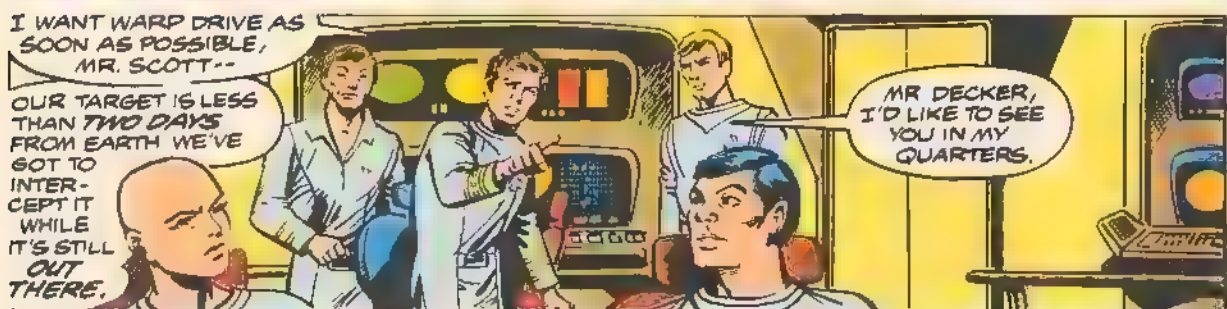
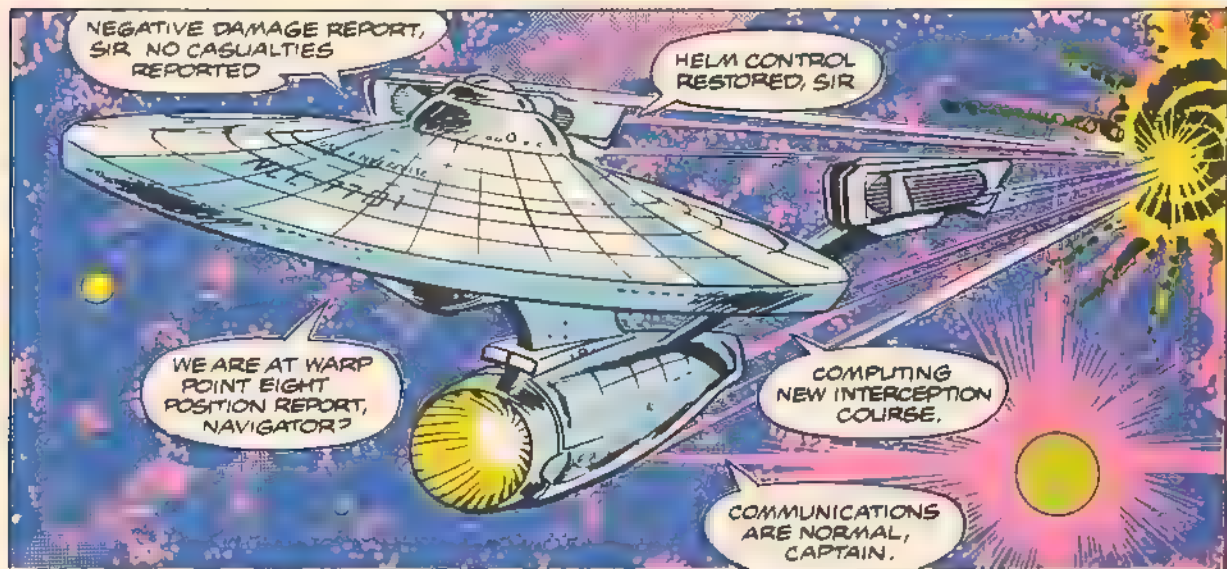
LIEUTENANT,
TIME TO
IMPACT?

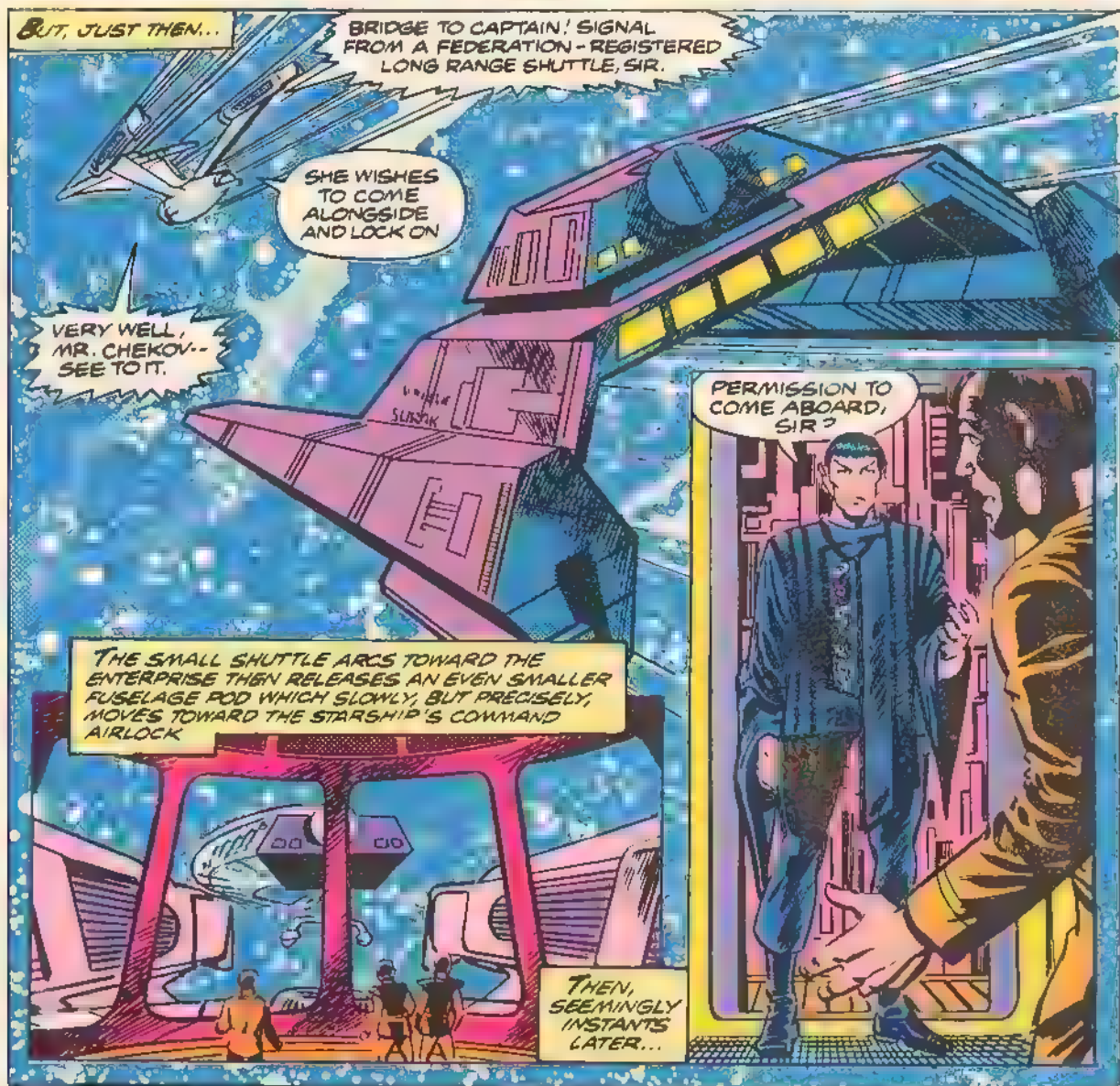
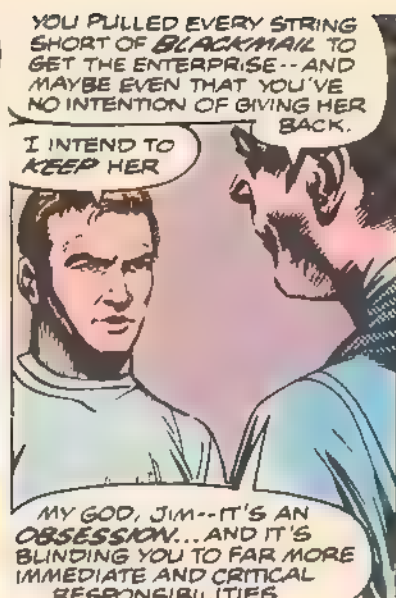
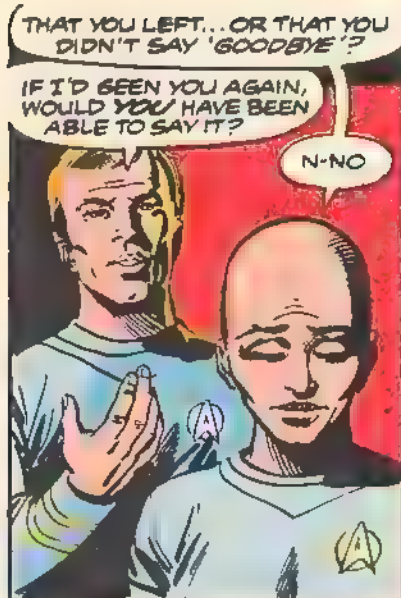
TWELVE
SECONDS,
CAPTAIN!

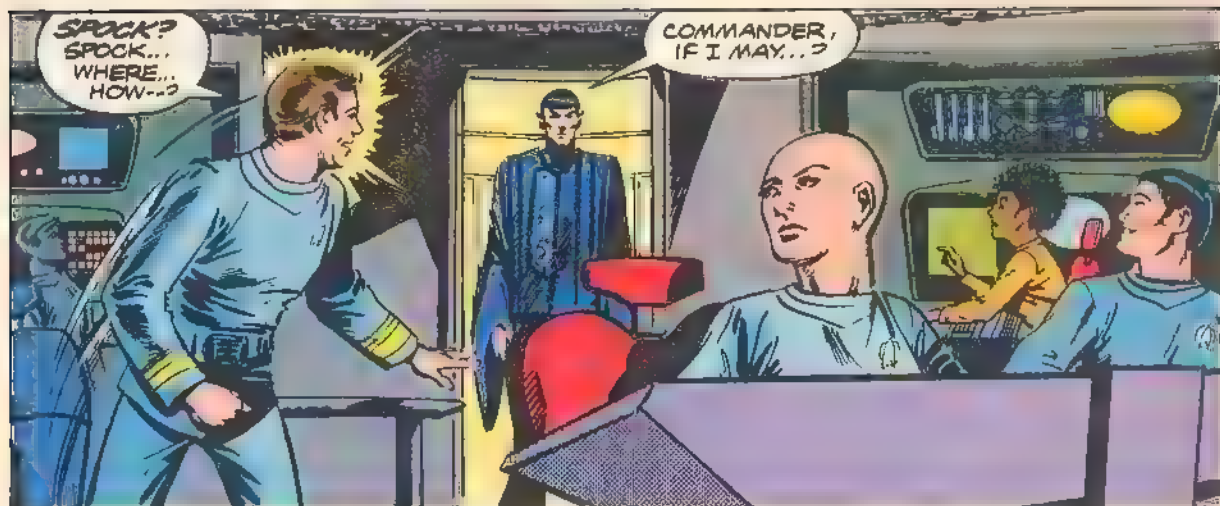
WORMHOLE
DISTORTION
HAS OVER-
LOADED MAIN
POWER
SYSTEMS!

MR CHEKOV, STAND BY
ON THE PHASERS....!









SPOCK?
SPOCK...
WHERE...
HOW...?

COMMANDER,
IF I MAY...?



I HAVE BEEN *MONITORING*
YOUR STARFLEET TRANS-
MISSIONS, CAPTAIN, YOUR
ENGINE DESIGN
DIFFICULTIES...



I OFFER
MY SERVICES
AS *SCIENCE*
OFFICER.

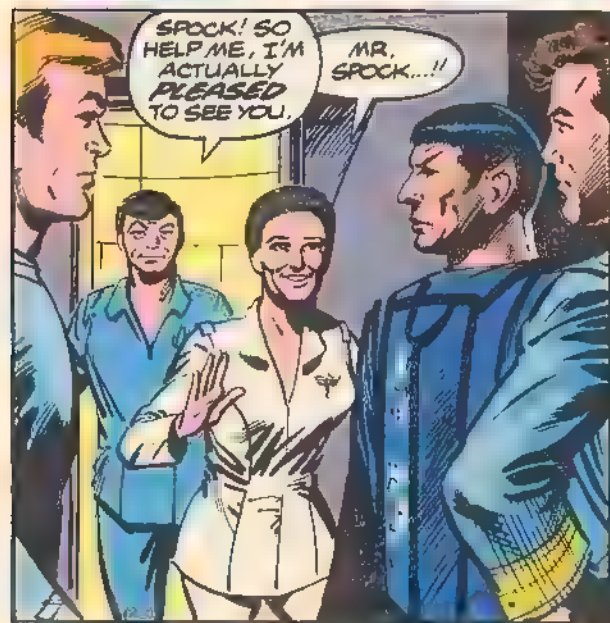
BY ALL. UMMM...
IF OUR EXECUTIVE
OFFICER HAS NO
OBJECTIONS...?

OF COURSE
NOT. I'M AWARE
OF MR. SPOCK'S
QUALIFICA-
TIONS.



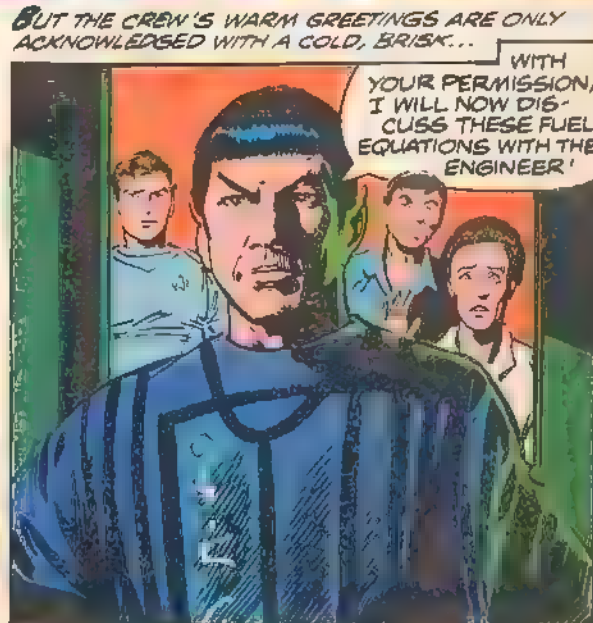
MR. CHEKOV, LOG MR
SPOCK'S STARFLEET
COMMISSION REACTI-
VATED; LIST HIM AS
SCIENCE OFFICER;
BOTH EFFEC-
TIVE IMMEDI-
ATELY.

MISTER
SPOCK...
WELCOME
ABOARD!



SPOCK! SO
HELP ME, I'M
ACTUALLY
PLEASED
TO SEE YOU.

MR.
SPOCK...!!

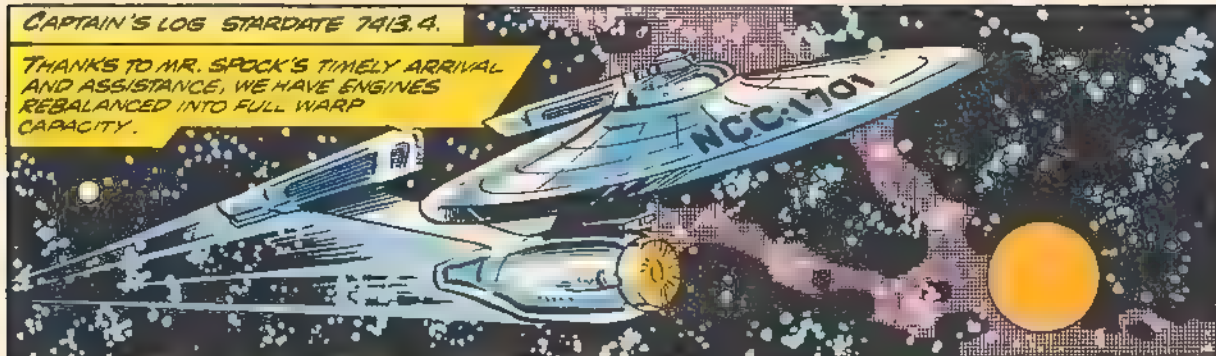


BUT THE CREW'S WARM GREETINGS ARE ONLY
ACKNOWLEDGED WITH A COLD, BRISK...

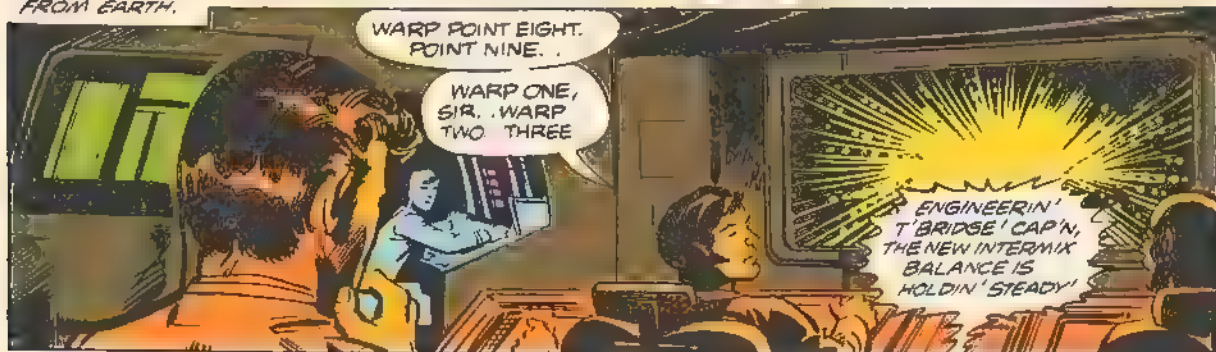
WITH
YOUR PERMISSION,
I WILL NOW DIS-
CUSS THESE FUEL
EQUATIONS WITH THE
ENGINEER!

CAPTAIN'S LOG STARDATE 7413.4.

THANKS TO MR. SPOCK'S TIMELY ARRIVAL AND ASSISTANCE, WE HAVE ENGINES REBALANCED INTO FULL WARP CAPACITY.



WHICH MEANS WE WILL NOW BE ABLE TO INTERCEPT THE INTRUDER WHILE STILL MORE THAN A DAY FROM EARTH.



WARP POINT EIGHT.
POINT NINE.

WARP ONE,
SIR. WARP
TWO THREE

ENGINEERIN'
T' BRIDGE 'CAP'N,
THE NEW INTERMIX
BALANCE IS
HOLDIN' STEADY!

OFFICER'S
LOUNGE,
SHORTLY
AFTER-
WARDS...

MR. SPOCK, YOU REPORTED THAT
YOU FELT STRONG *THOUGHT*
EMANATIONS AS IF FROM A GROUP
OF MINDS. COULD YOU MAKE OUT
ANY PLAN?

NEGATIVE, CAPTAIN. I
COULD ONLY SENSE AN ALMOST OMNIS-
CIENT PATTERN OF
LOGIC. I UNDERSTOOD
NOTHING
MORE.

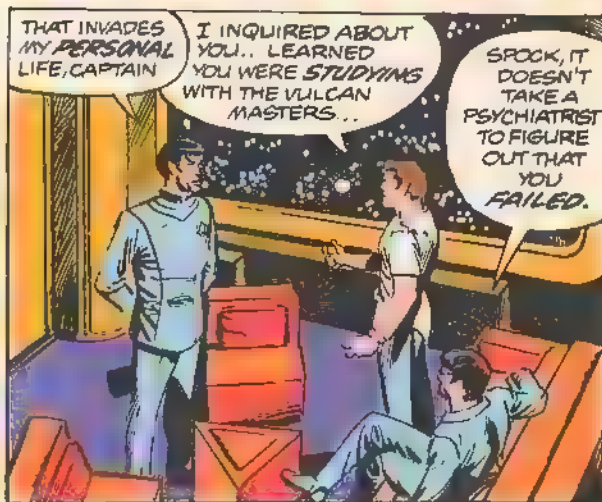
ALSO, THERE'S NOTHING
IN YOUR REPORT ABOUT
WHY YOU'RE HERE.



THAT INVADERS
MY *PERSONAL*
LIFE, CAPTAIN

I INQUIRED ABOUT
YOU... LEARNED
YOU WERE *STUDYING*
WITH THE VULCAN
MASTERS...

SPOCK, IT
DOESN'T
TAKE A
PSYCHIATRIST
TO FIGURE
OUT THAT
YOU
FAILED.

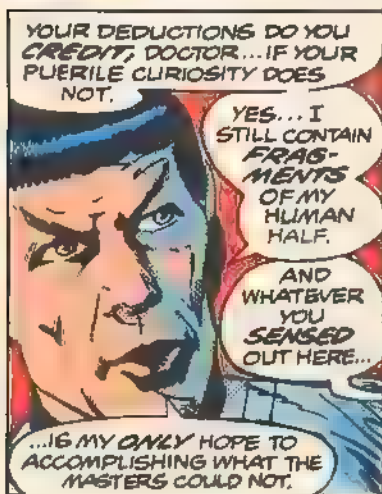


YOUR DEDUCTIONS DO YOU
CREDIT, DOCTOR... IF YOUR
PUERILE CURIOSITY DOES
NOT.

YES... I
STILL CONTAIN
FRAG-
MENTS
OF MY
HUMAN
HALF.

AND
WHATEVER
YOU
SENSED
OUT HERE...

...IS MY *ONLY* HOPE TO
ACCOMPLISHING WHAT THE
MASTERS COULD NOT.

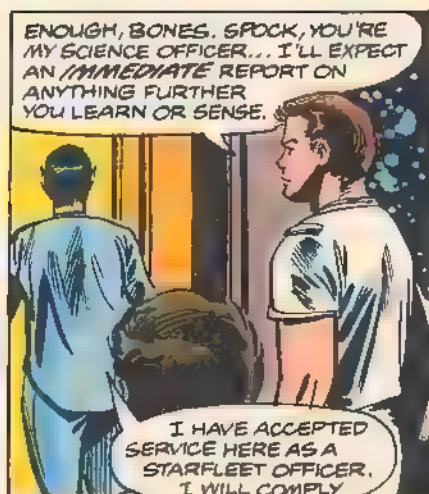


MY GOD, SPOCK, EVEN IF YOU
ACHIEVE PERFECT LOGIC,
YOU'LL PAY A PRICE. IT'S
GIVEN YOUR PLANET *PEACE*,
BUT NO ART, NO MUSIC, NO
POETRY...



ENOUGH, BONES. SPOCK, YOU'RE
MY SCIENCE OFFICER... I'LL EXPECT
AN *IMMEDIATE* REPORT ON
ANYTHING FURTHER
YOU LEARN OR SENSE.

I HAVE ACCEPTED
SERVICE HERE AS A
STARFLEET OFFICER.
I WILL COMPLY.



THE TRACKLESS
INFINITY OF SPACE
THEN, FINALLY...

CAPTAIN!
RED ALERT!
INTRUDER
CLOUD--
AHEAD!!

CONTINUING
FRIENDSHIP
MESSAGES ON
ALL FREQUENCIES
S.R.

FULL
MAGNIFICATION
ON VIEWER

WE ARE BEING
SCANNED,
CAPTAIN!

DO NOT RETURN
SCAN. MR SPOCK
IT MAY BE MISIN-
TERPRETED AS
HOSTILITY!

WE'LL TAKE
NO PROVOCATIVE
ACTION!

CAPTAIN, WE'VE SEEN WHAT THEIR
WEAPONS CAN DO. SHOULDN'T WE
TAKE ANY POSSIBLE PRECAUTION--

I WILL **NOT**
PROVOKE AN ATTACK,
MR DECKER IF THAT
ORDER ISN'T CLEAR
TO YOU

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE. TWELFTH
POWER ENERGY FIELD EMANATING
FROM AN OBJECT AT THE HEART
OF THE CLOUD.

TWELFTH
POWER?!

INCOMING
FIRE AHEAD
ZERO MARK
ZERO!

WE'RE UNDER
ATTACK!

FORCEFIELDS
NOW!!
DEFLECTORS
UP FULL!!

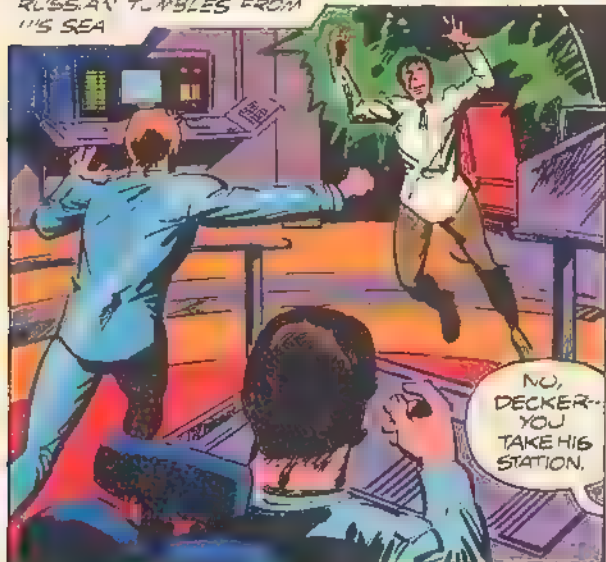
THE WRITHING, EMERALD WHIPLASH OF ENERGY EXPLODES AGAINST THE ENTERPRISE DEFLECTORS WITH AN UNEARTHLY SHRELLING SCREAM.

AS ALL GOES BLACK LIKE THE DARKEST PITCH OF SPACE

THE GANT STARSHIP IS CAUGHT IN A BLAZING BLUE COCOON OF ELECTRICAL FIRE WHICH CRACKLES MENACINGLY ON THE FORCEFIELD BARRIER.



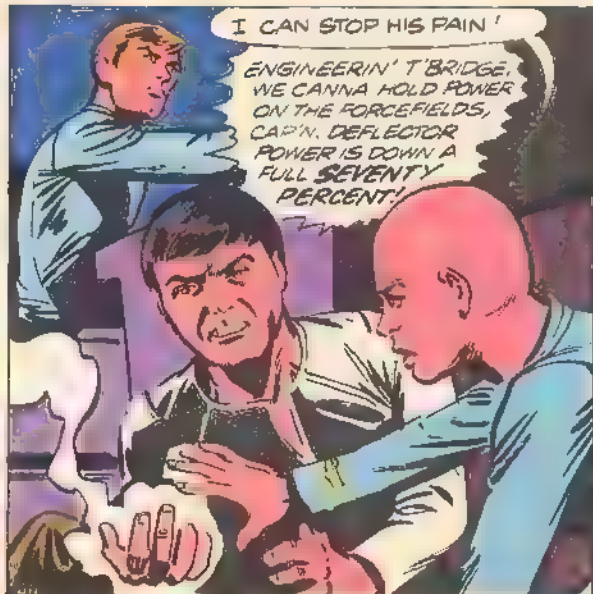
WILLARD DECKER LUNGES FORWARD AS THE YOUNG RUSSIAN TUMBLES FROM HIS SEAT

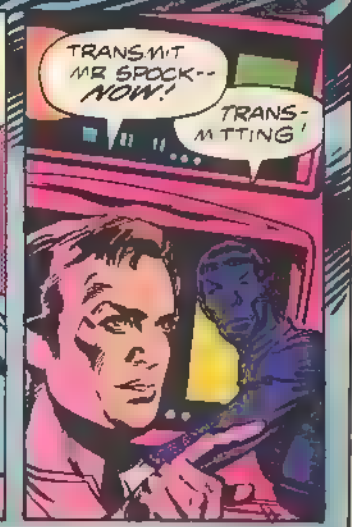
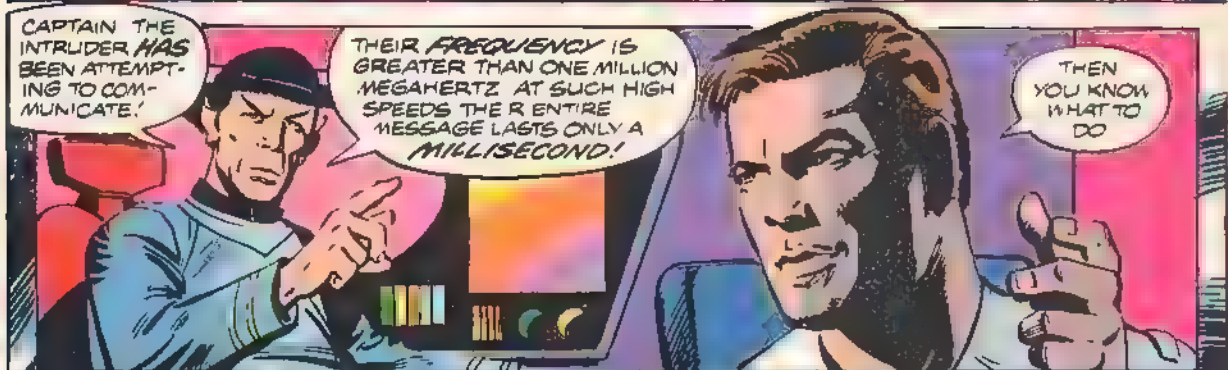


NO, DECKER-- YOU TAKE HIS STATION.

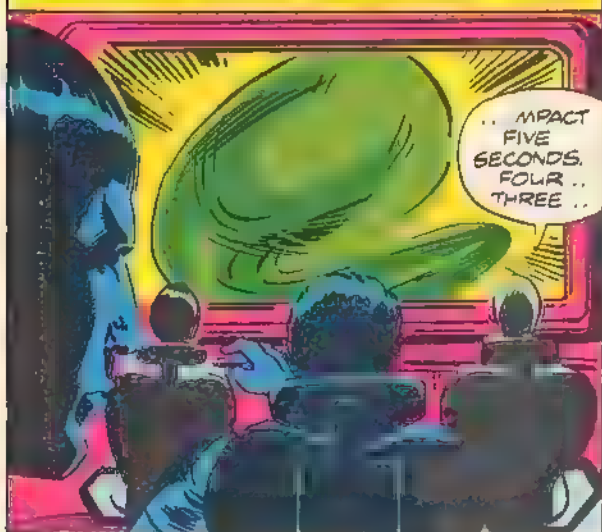
I CAN STOP HIS PAIN!

ENGINEERIN' T' BRIDGE, WE CANNA HOLD POWER ON THE FORCEFIELDS, CAP'N. DEFLECTOR POWER IS DOWN A FULL SEVENTY PERCENT!

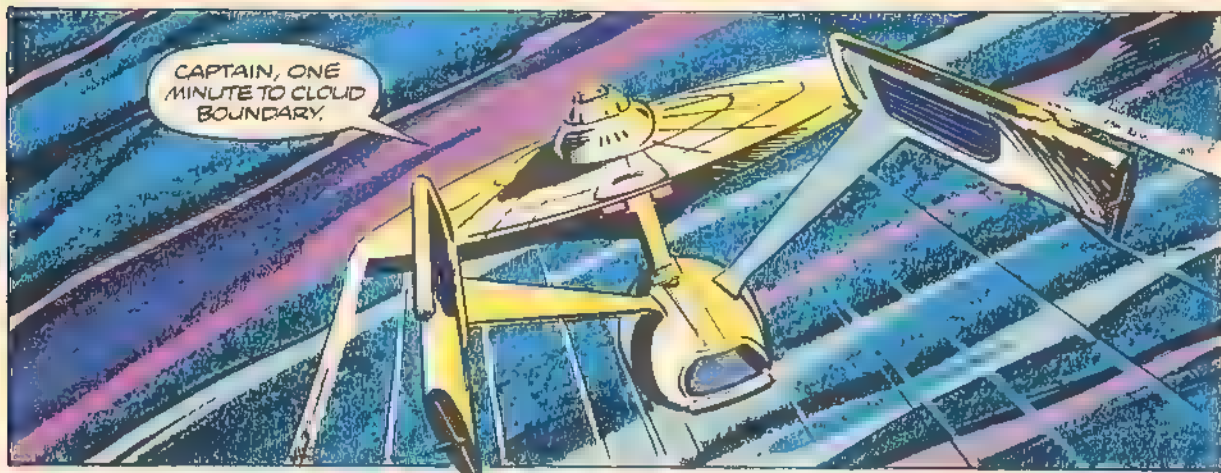
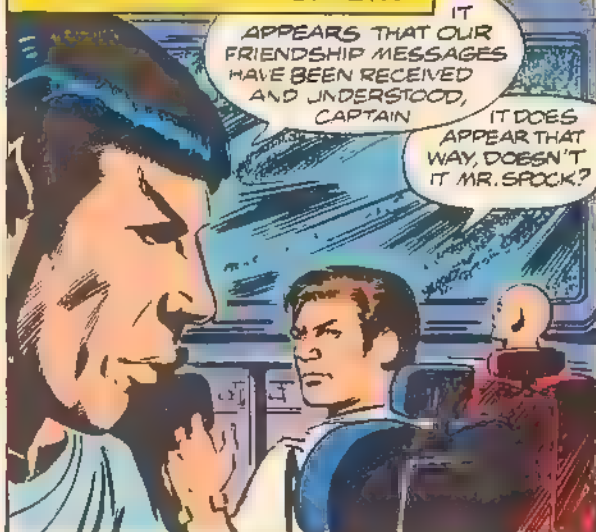


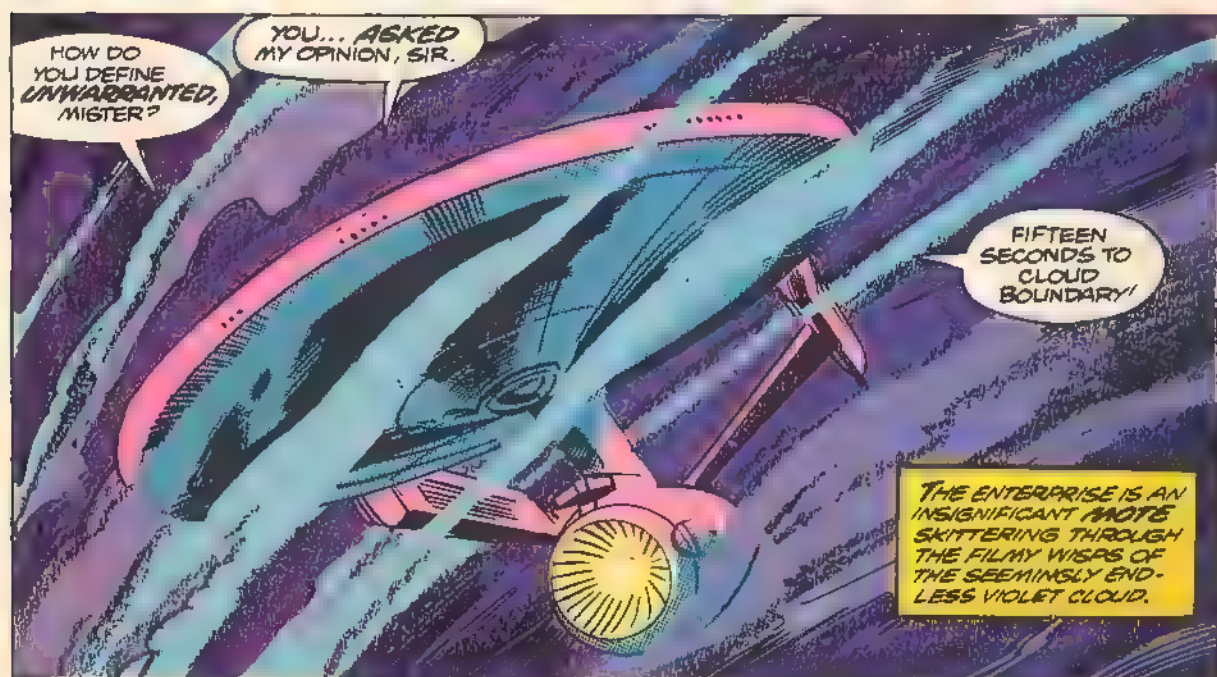
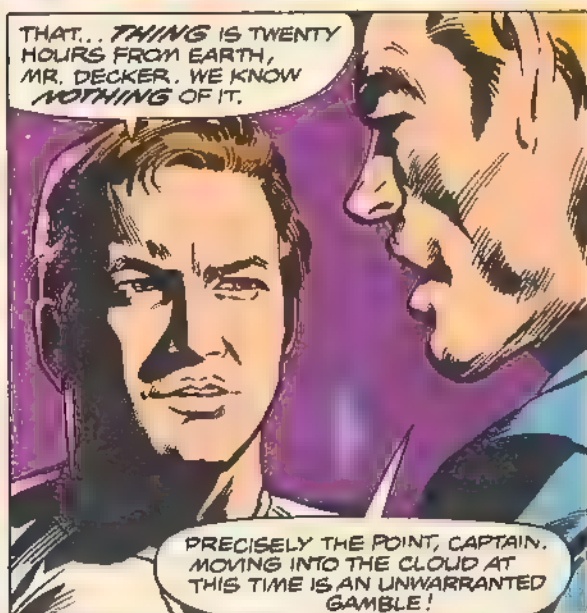
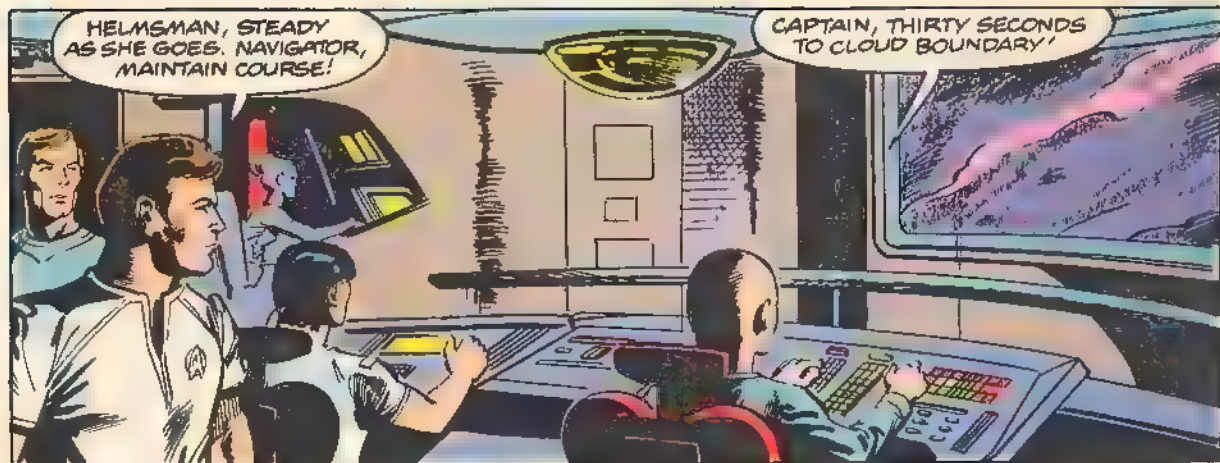


LIKE A WILD, ERRANT COMET, THE EMERALD WHIPLASH FLASHES AGONIZINGLY CLOSER...



THEN, SUDDENLY, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE-- THE VERDANT BOLT IS GONE...





THEN, AS IF SWALLOWED
BY SOME GIANT MAW,
THE STARSHIP DISAPPEARS
INTO THE THICK, MURKY
VASTNESS...

INSTRUMENTS
FLUCTUATING,
CAPTAIN!
PATTERNS ARE
UNRECOGNIZABLE!

NO VESSEL COULD
GENERATE A POWERFIELD
OF THIS MAGNITUDE,
SPOCK!

CAPTAIN--
LOOK!

SIR, IT'S INCREDIBLE! I
MAKE IT AS SEVENTY-EIGHT
KILOMETERS IN LENGTH!

IT COULD
HOLD A CREW
OF TENS OF
THOUSANDS!

CAPTAIN, THAT VESSEL IS GENERATING
A FORCEFIELD MEASURABLY GREATER
THAN THE RADIATION OF THE EARTH'S SUN!

SPOCK,
WHAT IN HELL
IS IT?

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE,
CAPTAIN... SIMPLY
UNBELIEVABLE!

WE'RE CLOSING
IN ON IT RAPIDLY,
CAPTAIN!

ADJUST PARALLEL COURSE, NAVIGATOR.
BRING US IN TO ONE HUNDRED KILOMETERS
DISTANCE.

I'VE NEVER
SEEN ANY-
THING QUITE
LIKE THAT,
JIM

BONES, I DON'T
THINK *ANYONE*
EVER HAS BEFORE.

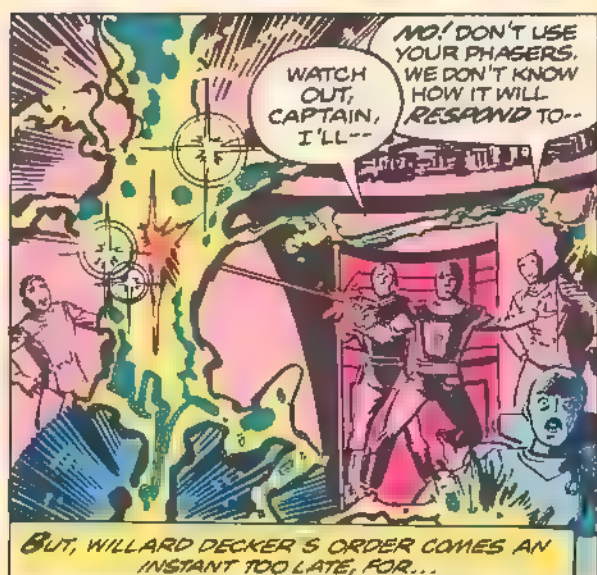
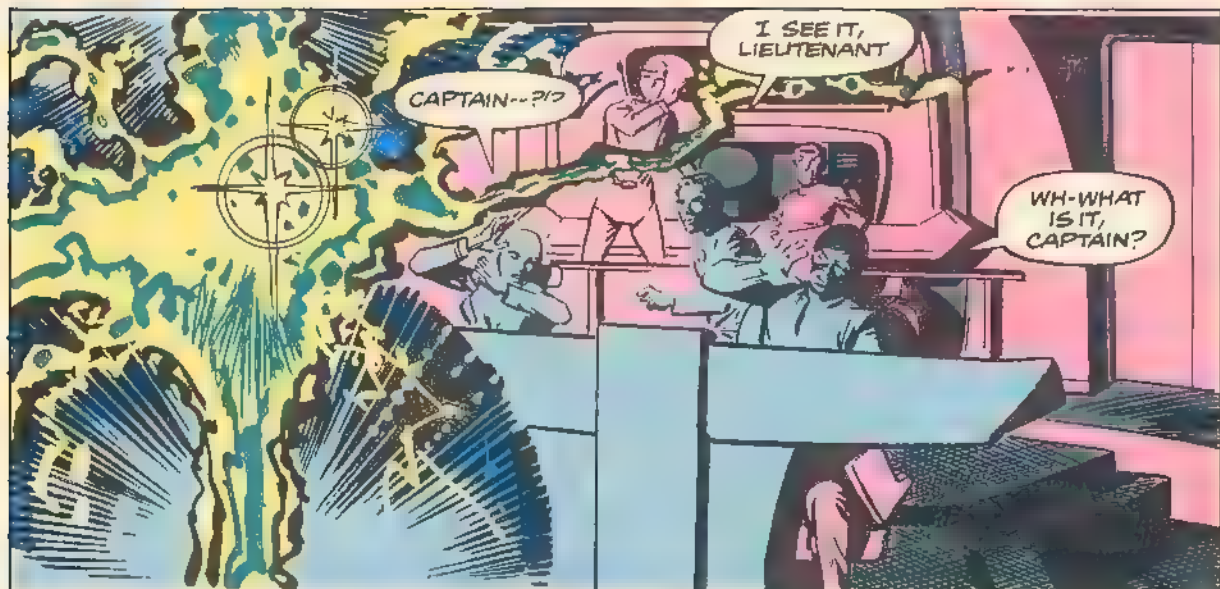
ONE
HUNDRED
KILO-
METERS,
SIR HOLDING
RELATIVE
POSITION.

WELL,
SPOCK, WE'VE
MET THE
ENEMY--

--WHAT
NOW?

INTRUDER ALERT!
INTRUDER ALERT!!

WHAT..?





IT'S A *PROBE* FROM THEIR VESSEL...

I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS, SPOCK-- IT'S *KILLED* ONE OF MY MEN!

CAPTAIN, NO INTRUDER READINGS ON OTHER DECKS!



MR. CHEKOV, IT'S ENTERING YOUR CONSOLE... DON'T INTERFERE WITH IT.

ABSOLUTELY I--I WILL *NOT* INTERFERE!



IT DOESN'T SEEM INTERESTED IN THE SHIP'S PERSONNEL-- ONLY WITH THE ENTERPRISE HERSELF.

IT'S TAKING CONTROL OF THE *COMPUTER*... RUNNING THROUGH OUR RECORDS... STAR-FLEET STRENGTH, EARTH DEFENSES!

SPOCK CLASPS HIS POWERFUL VULCAN FISTS TOGETHER AND SMASHES THEM DOWN WITH A *SHATTERING BLOW*. IN A FLURRY OF SPUTTERING FIRE AND SPARKS, THE COMPUTER CONSOLE SPLITS WIDE...



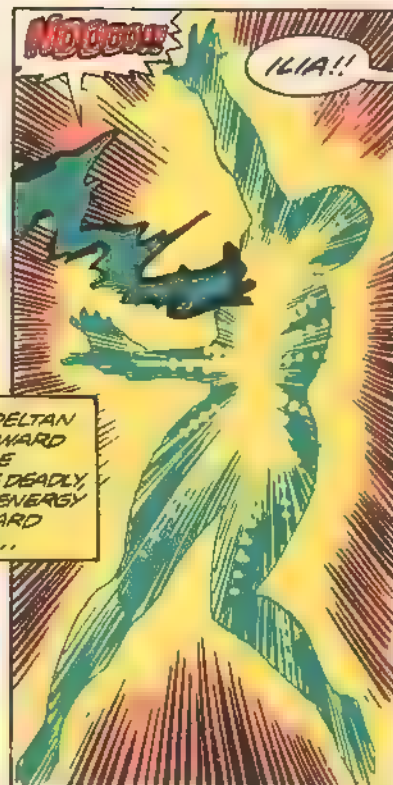
THEN STAND BACK, COMMANDER. THIS SHOULD STOP IT...



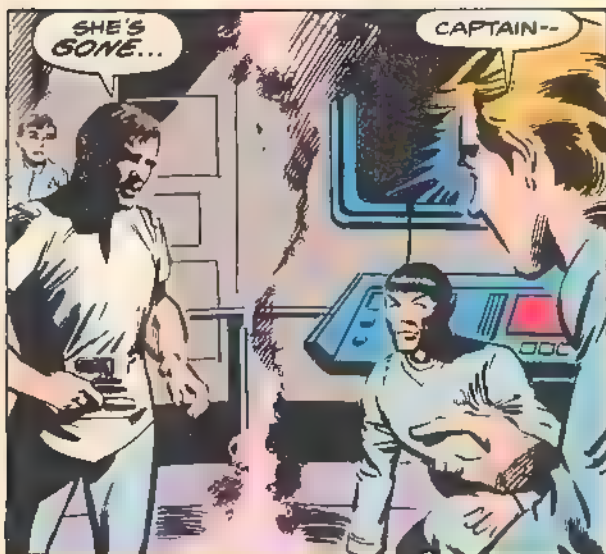
BUT...

MR. SPOCK, DON'T MOVE--

THE LITHE DELTAN LEAPS FORWARD AS A SINGLE TENDRIL OF DEADLY, PUSSANT ENERGY STABS TOWARD HER...



ILIA!!



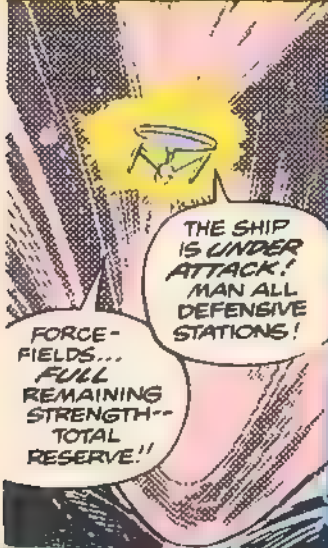
SHE'S GONE...

CAPTAIN--



THIS IS HOW I
DEFINE UNWARRANTED!!

SUDDENLY, THE AMPLIFIED CLANGOR OF KLAXONS REVERBERATE THROUGH THE BRIDGE...

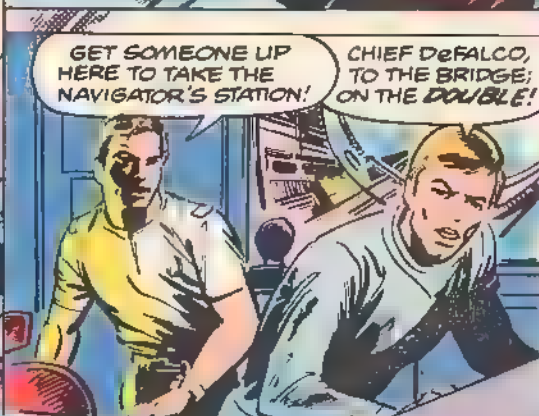


THE SHIP
IS UNDER
ATTACK!
MAN ALL
DEFENSIVE
STATIONS!

FORCE-
FIELDS...
FULL
REMAINING
STRENGTH--
TOTAL
RESERVE!!

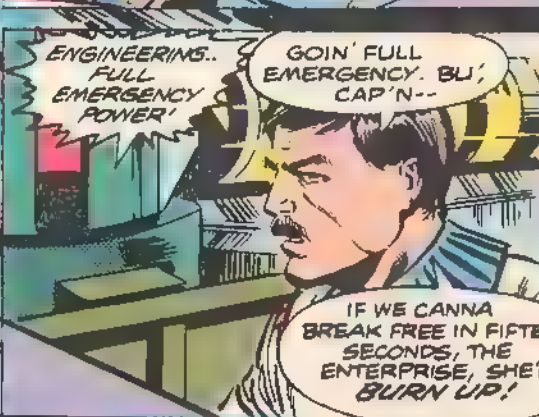


CAPTAIN, WE'VE
BEEN SEIZED BY
A TRACTOR
BEAM...



GET SOMEONE UP
HERE TO TAKE THE
NAVIGATOR'S STATION!

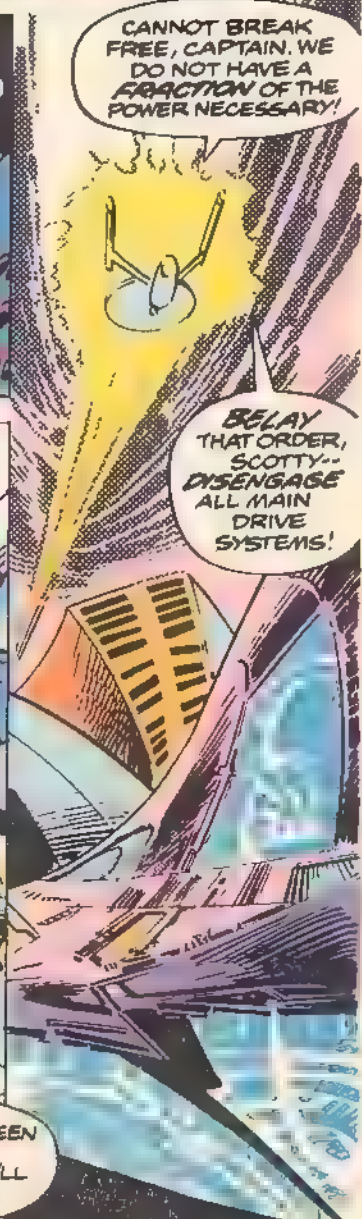
CHIEF DeFALCO,
TO THE BRIDGE;
ON THE DOUBLE!



ENGINEERING...
FULL
EMERGENCY
POWER!

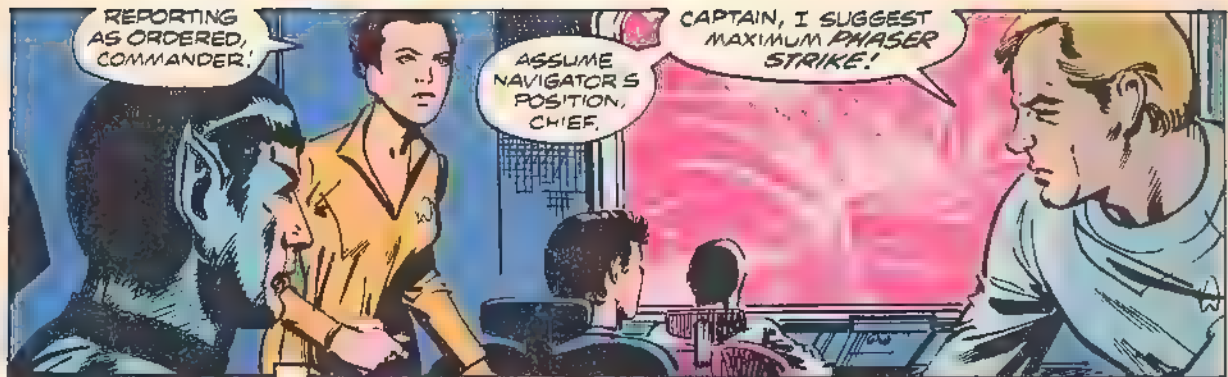
GOIN' FULL
EMERGENCY. BU,
CAP'N--

IF WE CANNA
BREAK FREE IN FIFTEEN
SECONDS, THE
ENTERPRISE, SHE'LL
BURN UP!



CANNOT BREAK
FREE, CAPTAIN. WE
DO NOT HAVE A
FRACTION OF THE
POWER NECESSARY!

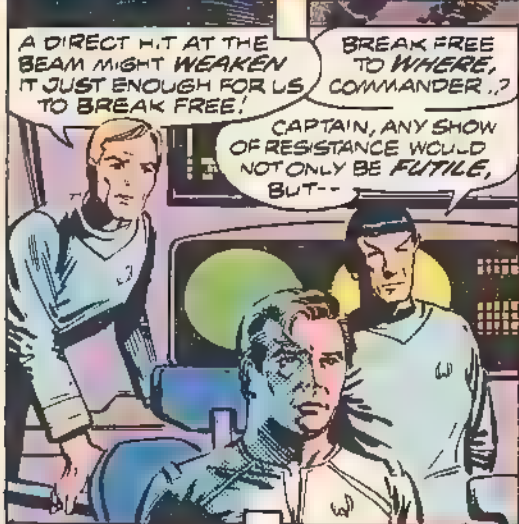
DELAY
THAT ORDER,
SCOTTY--
DISENGAGE
ALL MAIN
DRIVE
SYSTEMS!



REPORTING
AS ORDERED,
COMMANDER!

ASSUME
NAVIGATOR'S
POSITION,
CHIEF.

CAPTAIN, I SUGGEST
MAXIMUM PHASER
STRIKE!



A DIRECT HIT AT THE
BEAM MIGHT WEAKEN
IT JUST ENOUGH FOR US
TO BREAK FREE!

BREAK FREE
TO WHERE,
COMMANDER...?

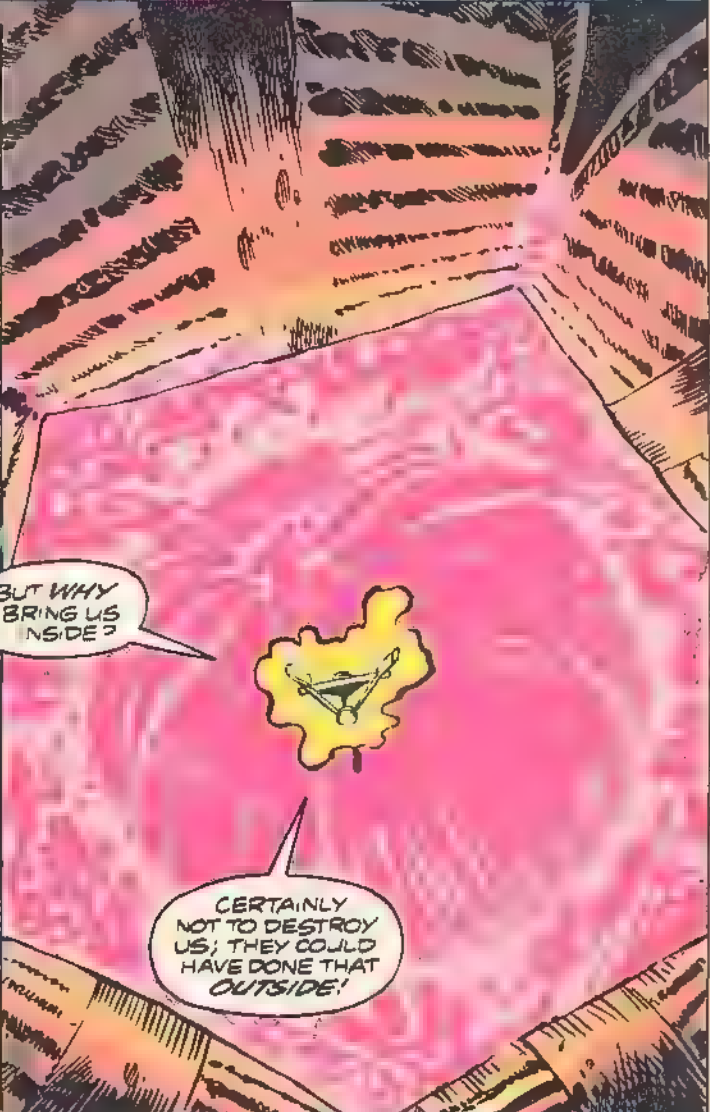
CAPTAIN, ANY SHOW
OF RESISTANCE WOULD
NOT ONLY BE FUTILE,
BUT--



WE DON'T KNOW
THAT, MR. SPOCK.
WHY ARE YOU
OPPOSED TO
TRYING?

CAPTAIN--
WE'RE BEING
PULLED
INSIDE!

BUT WHY
BRING US
INSIDE?



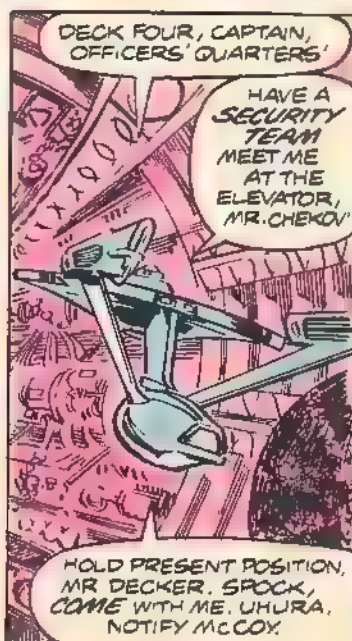
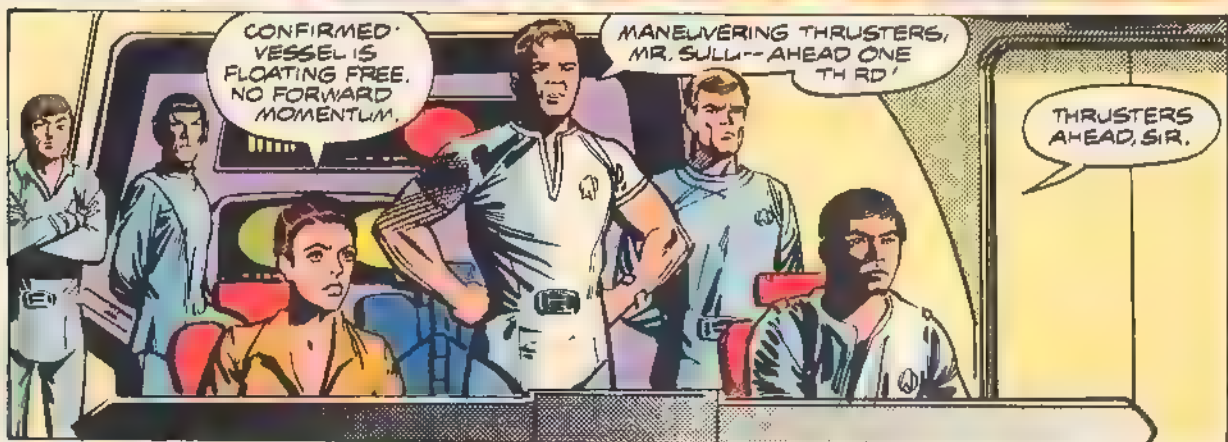
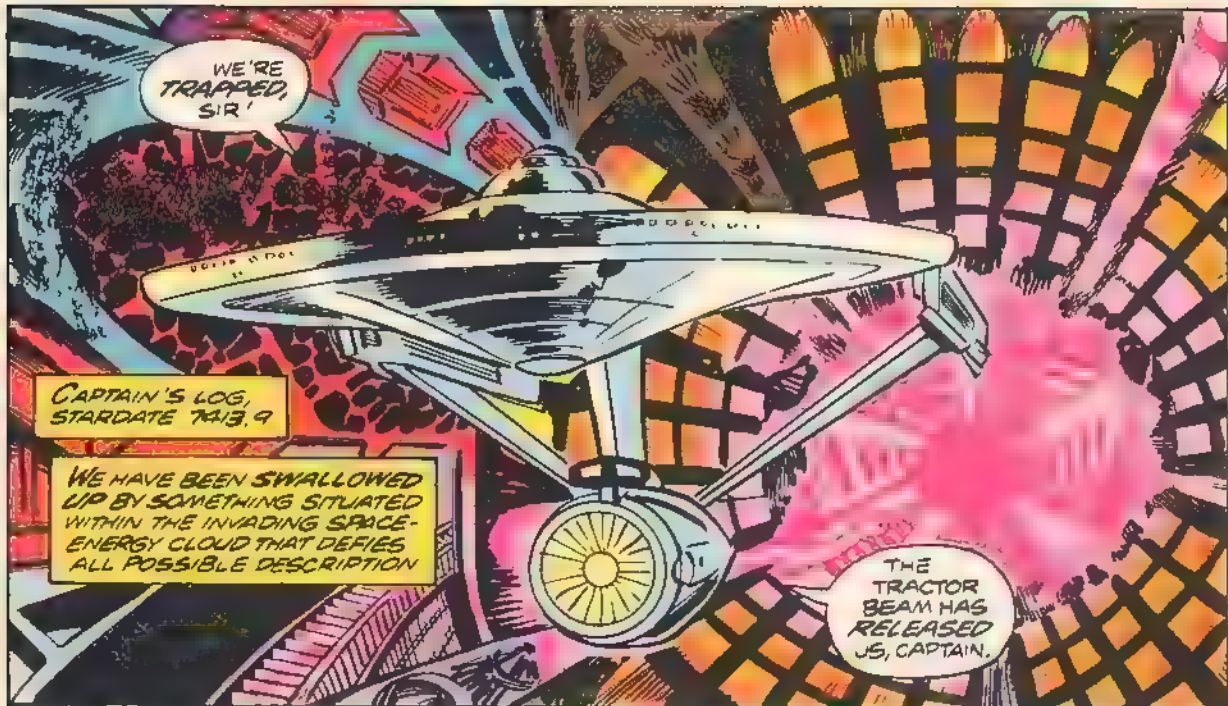
CERTAINLY
NOT TO DESTROY
US; THEY COULD
HAVE DONE THAT
OUTSIDE!



THEY COULD HAVE *MANY* WAYS
OF DESTROYING THINGS, MR.
DECKER.

SOMETHING ABOUT
US PUZZLES THEM...
PERHAPS EVEN CON-
CERNS THEM

CAPTAIN'S PHOTIC-
SONAR READINGS
INDICATE THE
APERTURE IS
CLOSING...



SUDDENLY, THE TRANSLUCENT SHOWER WALL IS GONE, AND..

I HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED BY V'GER TO OBSERVE AND RECORD NORMAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CARBON-BASED UNITS INFESTING U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

BONES--
CAN THAT
BE LT. LIA--?

BY GOD, JIM--
THIS IS SOME
KIND OF..
MECHANISM!

WHERE IS THE REAL
LT. LIA?

THAT UNIT NO LONGER
FUNCTIONS I HAVE
BEEN GIVEN ITS FORM
TO MORE READILY
COMMUNICATE WITH
THE CARBON-BASED
UNITS INFESTING
ENTERPRISE.

CARBON-
BASED
UNITS--?

HUMANS, CAPTAIN--
US!

WHO IS THIS... V'GER--?

V'GER IS THAT
WHICH
PROGRAMMED
ME.

TO FIND THE
CREATOR.. TO
JOIN WITH
HIM.

WHY IS THIS V'GER
TRAVELLING TOWARD OUR WORLD?

JOIN
WITH THE
CREATOR--?
HOW?

V'GER AND
THE CREATOR
WILL BECOME
ONE!

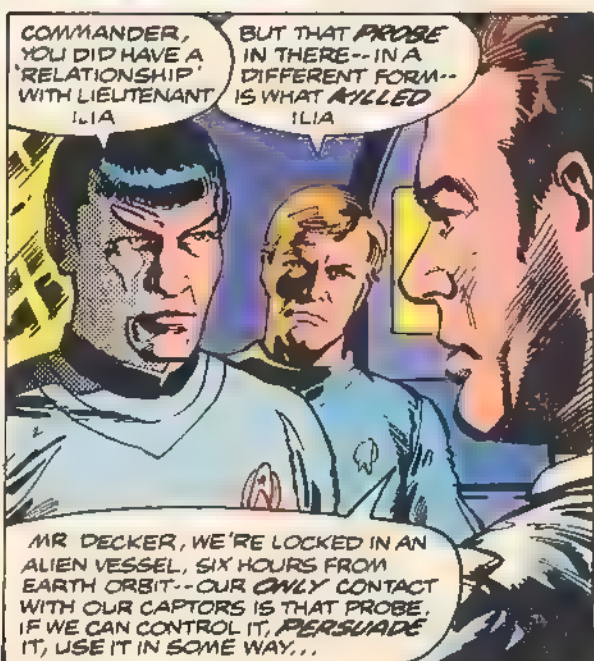
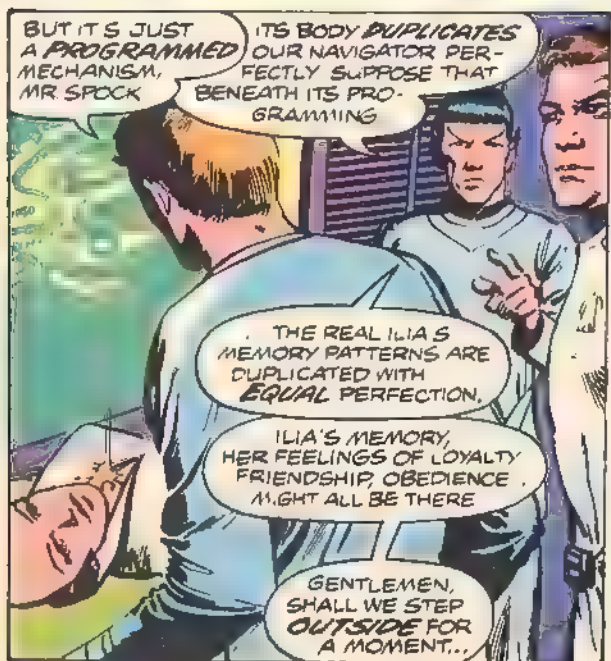
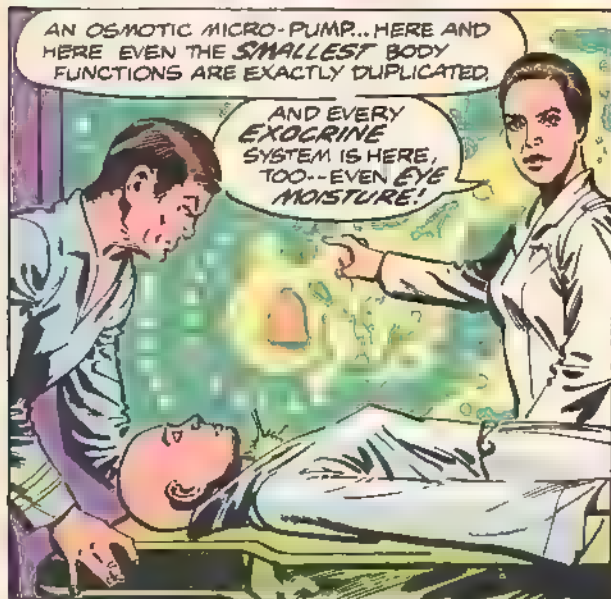
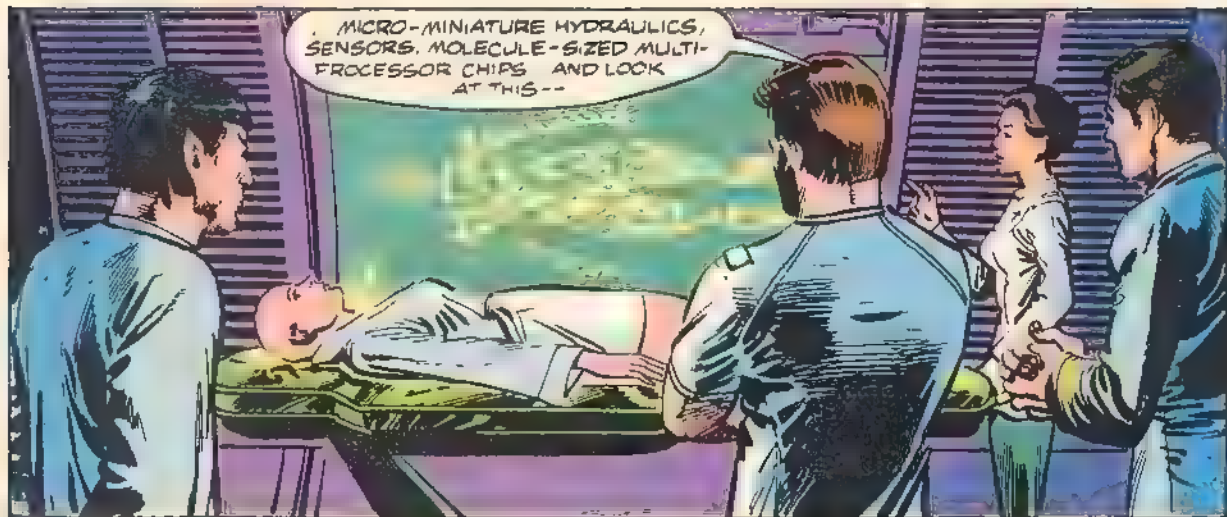
DOCTOR, A THOROUGH
EXAMINATION OF THIS
PROBE MIGHT PROVIDE
SOME INSIGHT INTO ITS
MANUFACTURER, AND
HOW TO
DEAL
WITH
IT.

THE EXAMINATION
IS A NORMAL
FUNCTION.

YOU
MAY
PROCEED.

THEN LET'S
GET ON WITH
IT

I AM PROGRAMMED
TO OBSERVE AND
RECORD NORMAL
FUNCTIONING PRO-
CEDURES OF THE
CARBON-BASED UNITS.



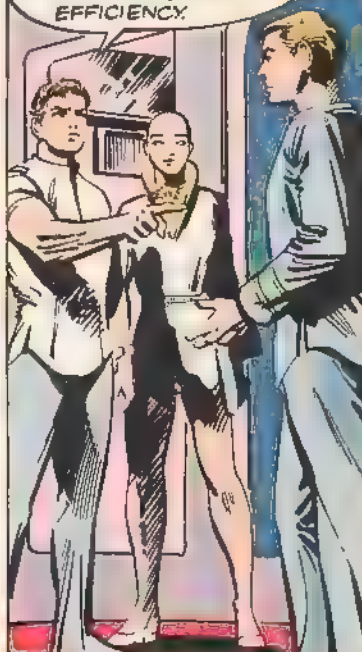
SUDDENLY THERE IS THE RASPING SOUND OF METAL BUCKLING... TEARING... AND THEN...

I HAVE RECORDED ENOUGH HERE YOU WILL NOW ASSIST ME FURTHER, CAPTAIN.

CAPTAIN, IT APPEARS THIS PROBE CANNOT EASILY BE CONTAINED



UMMM... THE DECKER-UNIT CAN ASSIST YOU WITH MUCH GREATER EFFICIENCY.

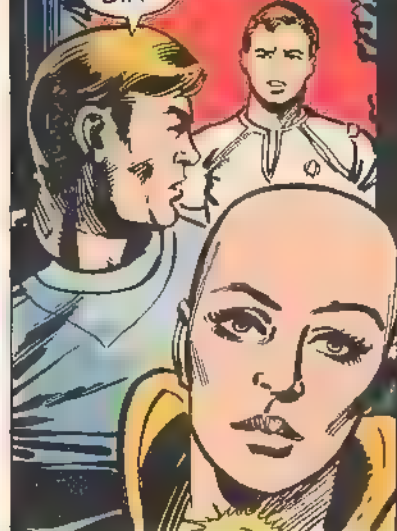


CARRY ON WITH YOUR ASSIGNMENT, MR DECKER

BUT SIR-- HOW--?

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, MISTER.

AYE, SIR

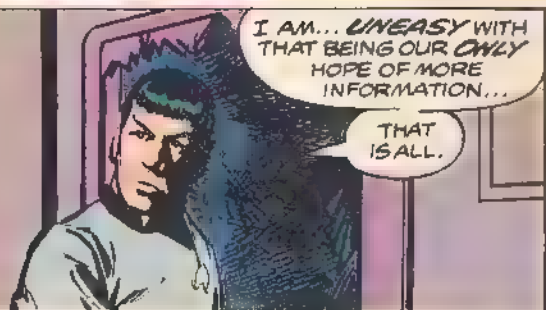


YOU SEEM CONCERNED, SPOCK... WITH HIS CHANCES?

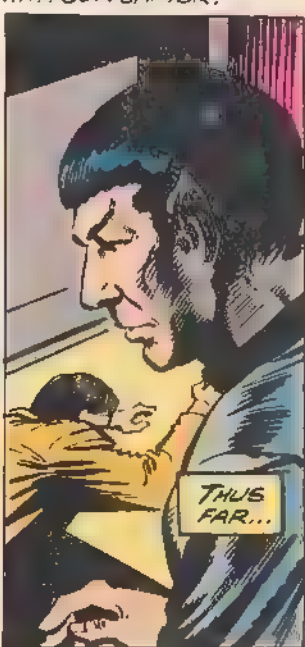


I AM... UNEASY WITH THAT BEING OUR ONLY HOPE OF MORE INFORMATION...

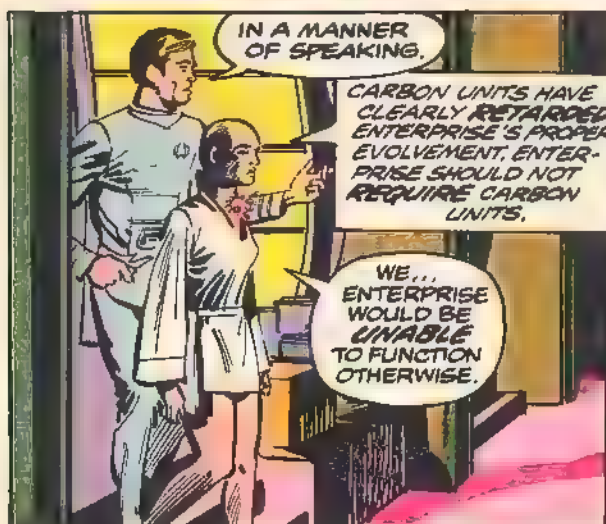
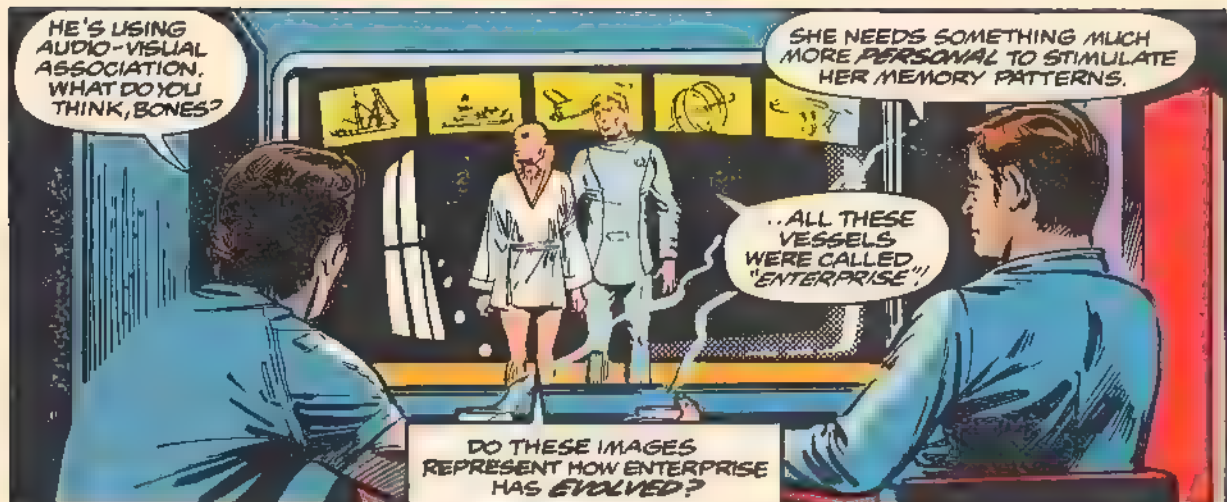
THAT IS ALL.



CAPTAIN'S LOG, STARDATE 7414.1. OUR BEST ESTIMATES PLACE US SOME FOUR HOURS FROM EARTH. NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS THUS FAR REVIVING ILIA'S MEMORY PATTERNS WITHIN THE SPACE PROBE. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS REMAINS OUR ONLY MEANS OF CONTACT WITH OUR CAPTOR.



THUS FAR...



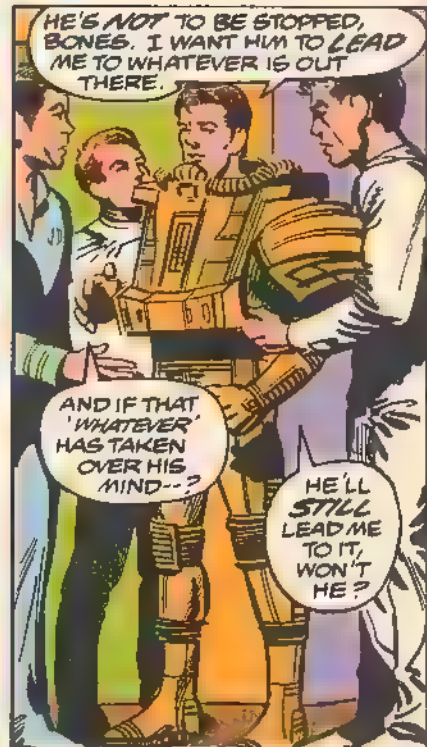
HIS LEAN FACE IS GRIM AS HE STEPS SILENTLY FROM THE ENTERPRISE AIRLOCK.

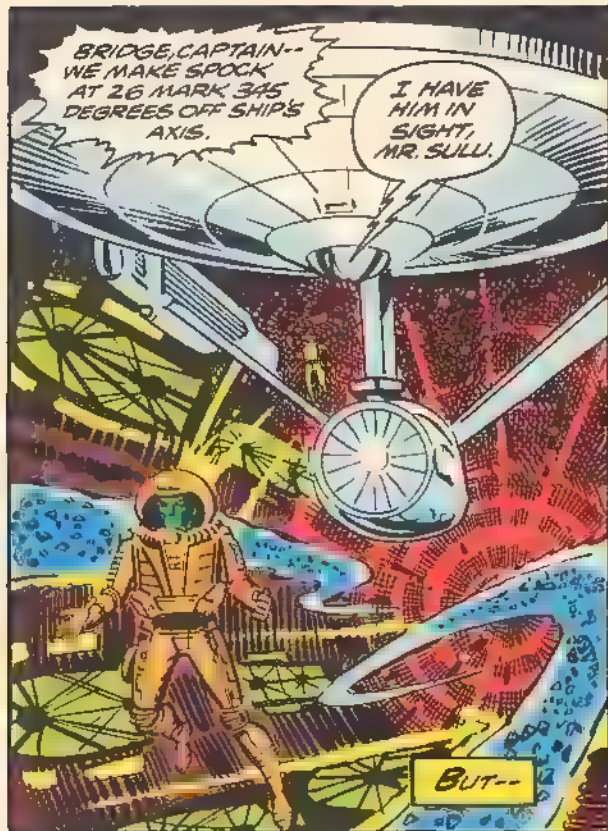


SPOCK BREATHES IN DEEPLY. THEN, WITH A MINIMUM OF EFFORT, FLOATS FROM THE OPEN HATCH INTO THE CRUEL DARKNESS OF SPACE.



AND ONLY MOMENTS LATER...

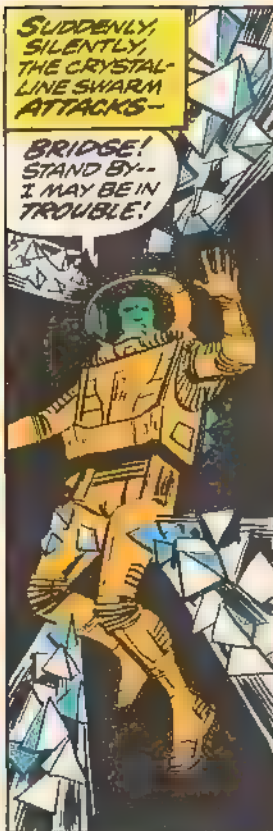




BRIDGE, CAPTAIN--
WE MAKE SPOCK
AT 26 MARK 345
DEGREES OFF SHIP'S
AXIS.

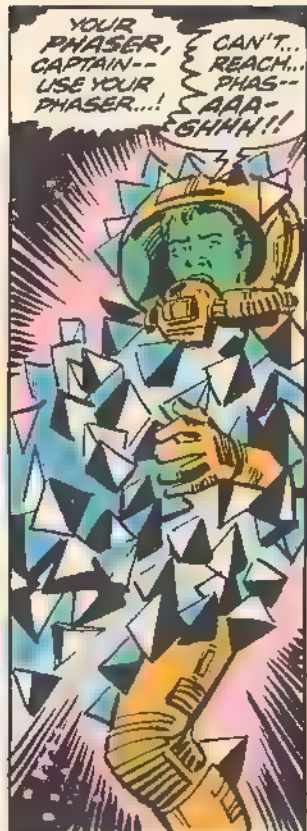
I HAVE
HIM IN
SIGHT,
MR. SULLI.

BUT--



SUDDENLY,
SILENTLY,
THE CRYSTAL-
LINE SWARM
ATTACKS--

BRIDGE!
STAND BY--
I MAY BE IN
TROUBLE!



YOUR
PHASER,
CAPTAIN--
USE YOUR
PHASER!!!

CAN'T...
REACH...
PHAS--
AAA--
GHHH!!

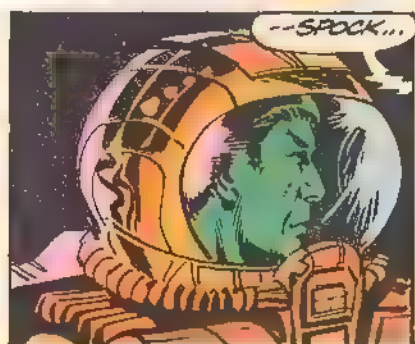


MR. SPOCK!
THE CAPTAIN IS
IN TROUBLE
BEHIND YOU!
MR. SPOCK!!

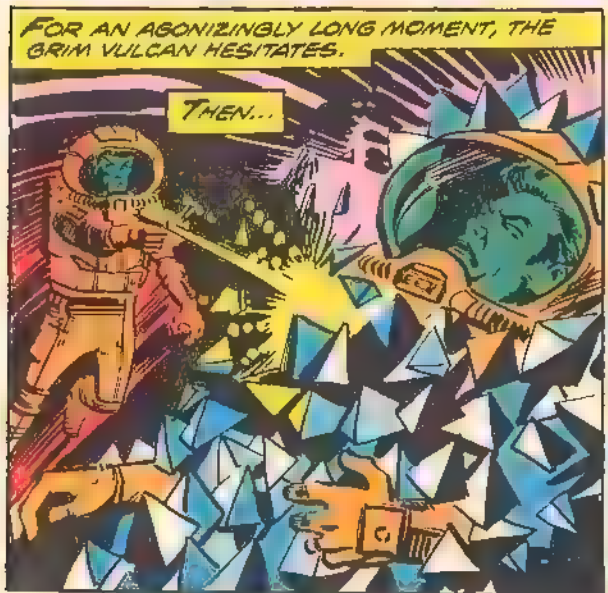
NO RESPONSE



...SPOCK... NEED HELP.
PRESSURE ON ME...
CAN'T... MOVE...

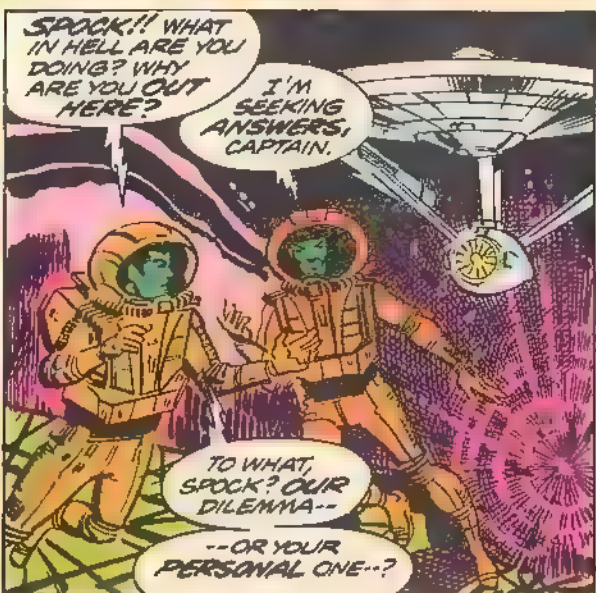


--SPOCK--



FOR AN AGONIZINGLY LONG MOMENT, THE
GRIM VULCAN HESITATES.

THEN...



SPOCK!! WHAT
IN HELL ARE YOU
DOING? WHY
ARE YOU OUT
HERE?

I'M
SEEKING
ANSWERS,
CAPTAIN.

TO WHAT,
SPOCK? OUR
DILEMMA--

--OR YOUR
PERSONAL ONE--?

SPOCK IS SILENT, HIS EYES REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE KIRK'S QUESTIONING STARE. INSTEAD, THE GRIM VULCAN TURNS...

CAPTAIN, I BELIEVE THERE WE WILL FIND AN INDICATION OF WHOEVER-- OR WHATEVER-- IS ABOARD THIS VESSEL.

...THAT FLOATING SWARM OF LIGHTS...?

THE V'GER IS VAST AS SPACE ITSELF-- AN ENDLESS KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOR AND SUBSTANCE.

SHIFTING, FORMING... CHANGING AT EVERY MOMENT.

CAPTAIN--

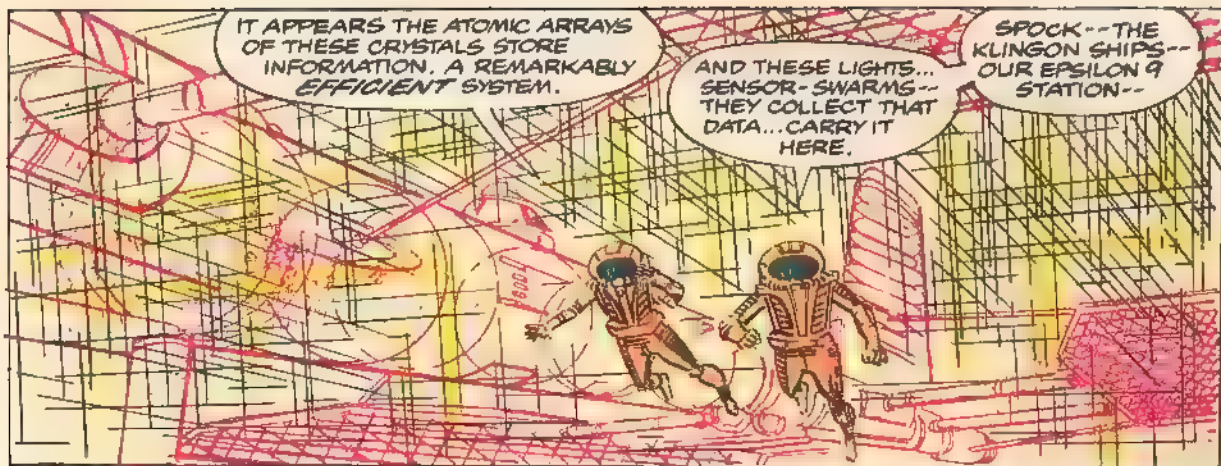
THE LIGHT SWARM FLICKERS THROUGH THE ENDLESS METAMORPHOSIS. KIRK AND SPOCK FOLLOW WITHOUT QUESTION

...FAST MULTI-COLORED CHAOS, THROUGH SHIFTING, PLASMIC WALLS, INTO DARK, NETHER REGIONS AND IMMENSE CRYSTALLINE HALLS.

IT APPEARS THE ATOMIC ARRAYS
OF THESE CRYSTALS STORE
INFORMATION. A REMARKABLY
EFFICIENT SYSTEM.

AND THESE LIGHTS...
SENSOR-SWARMS--
THEY COLLECT THAT
DATA...CARRY IT
HERE.

SPOCK--THE
KLINGON SHIPS--
OUR EPSILON 9
STATION--

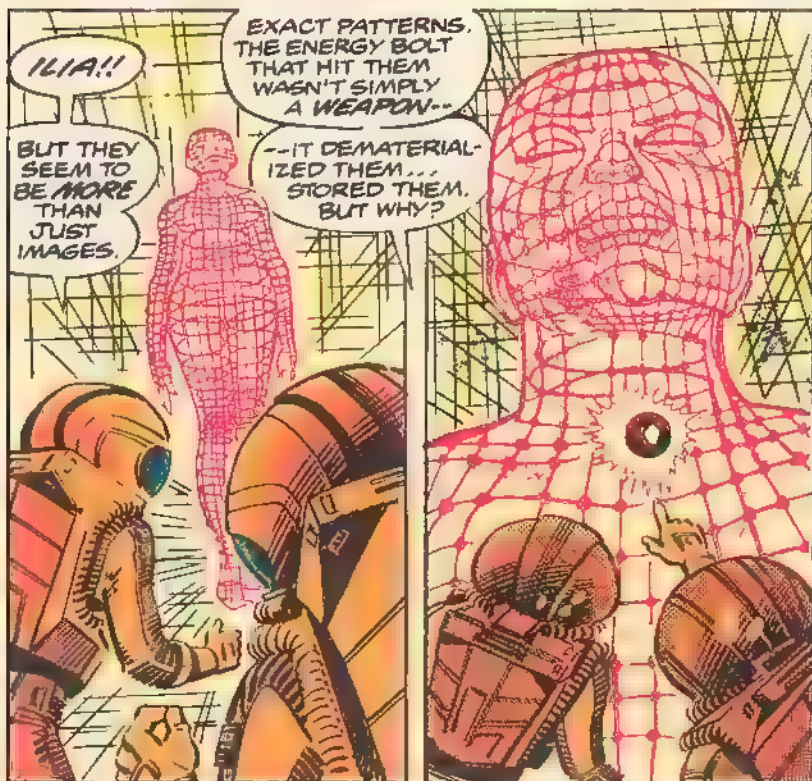


ILIA!!

EXACT PATTERNS.
THE ENERGY BOLT
THAT HIT THEM
WASN'T SIMPLY
A WEAPON--

--IT DEMATERIAL-
IZED THEM...
STORED THEM.
BUT WHY?

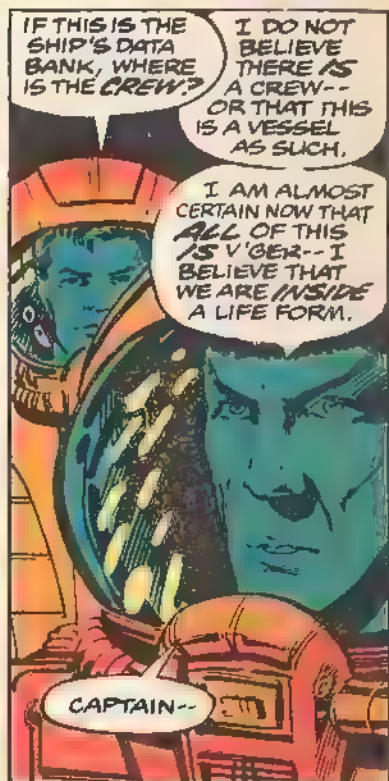
BUT THEY
SEEM TO BE MORE
THAN
JUST IMAGES.



IF THIS IS THE
SHIP'S DATA
BANK, WHERE
IS THE CREW?

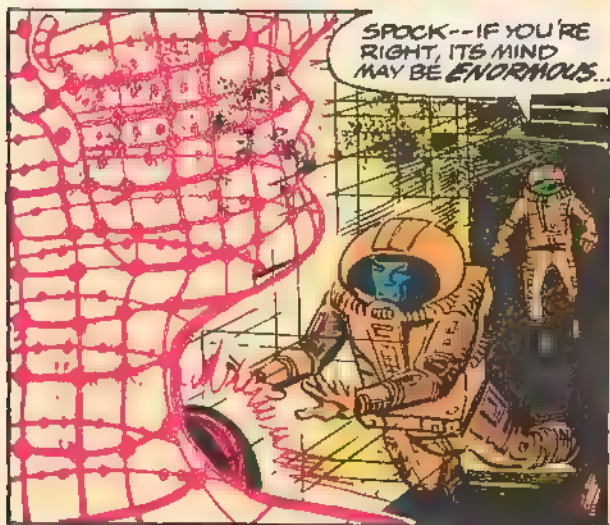
I DO NOT
BELIEVE
THERE IS
A CREW--
OR THAT THIS
IS A VESSEL
AS SUCH.

I AM ALMOST
CERTAIN NOW THAT
ALL OF THIS
IS V'GER-- I
BELIEVE THAT
WE ARE *INSIDE*
A LIFE FORM.



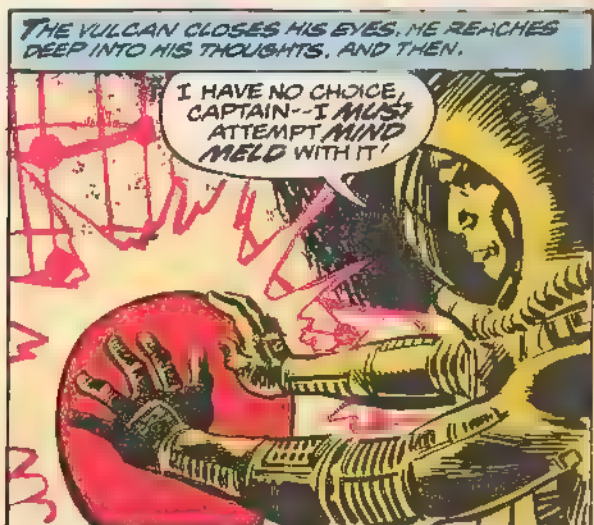
CAPTAIN--

SPOCK--IF YOU'RE
RIGHT, ITS MIND
MAY BE *ENORMOUS*...



THE VULCAN CLOSES HIS EYES. HE REACHES
DEEP INTO HIS THOUGHTS. AND THEN.

I HAVE NO CHOICE,
CAPTAIN--I *MUST*
ATTEMPT MIND
MELD WITH IT!



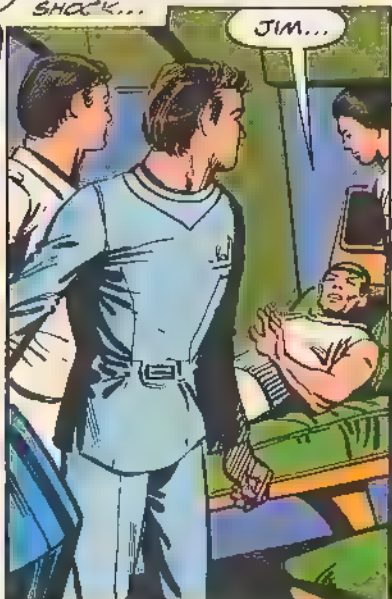


"NOW SCANNING
PONS AREA AT
SPINAL NERVE
FIBER CONNECTION..."



INDICATIONS OF SOME
NEUROLOGICAL TRAUMA--
THE POWER POURING
THROUGH THAT
MIND MELD MUST
HAVE BEEN
STAGGERING!

THEY TURN FROM SPOCK, BUT
A HARSH, BITTER LAUGH
FORCES THEM TO WHIRL IN
SHOCK...



JIM...



THE VULCAN REACHES OUT
WEAKLY AND CLASPS KIRK'S
HAND IN HIS OWN.

THIS SIMPLE
FEELING... IS
SO FAR BEYOND
V'GER'S COMPRE-
HENSION...

WERE YOU
RIGHT, SPOCK?
V'GER IS A LIVING
MACHINE?



A LIFE FORM OF ITS
OWN... A CONSCIOUS
LIVING ENTITY.

I--I SAW V'GER'S
PLANET-- A PLANET
POPULATED BY LIVING
MACHINES... UNBELIEV-
ABLE TECHNOLOGY, V'GER'S
KNOWLEDGE SPANG
THE UNIVERSE...

BUT, JIM-- IN ALL THIS ORDER
...ALL THIS MAGNIFICENCE...
V'GER FEELS NO AWE, NO
DELIGHT, NO BEAUTY. I
SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN.

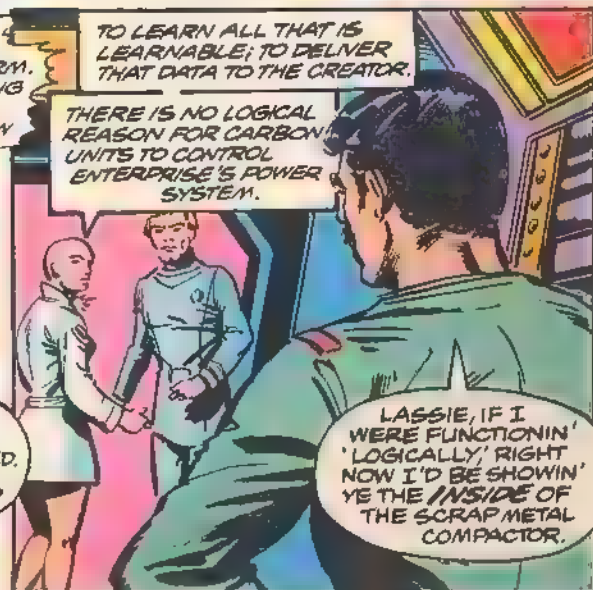
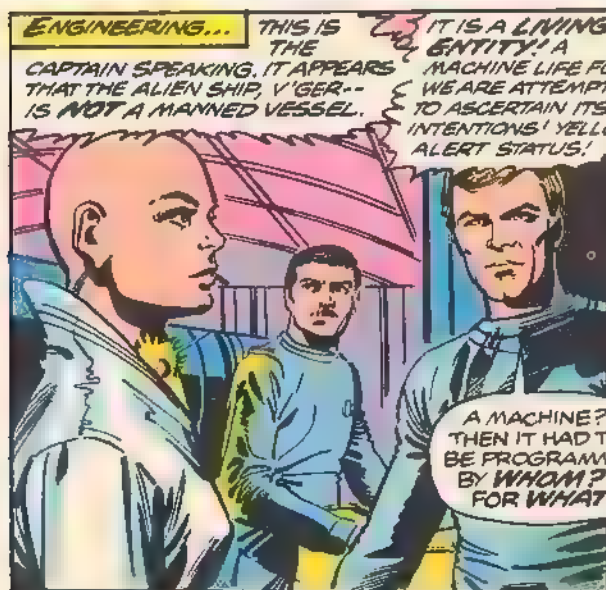
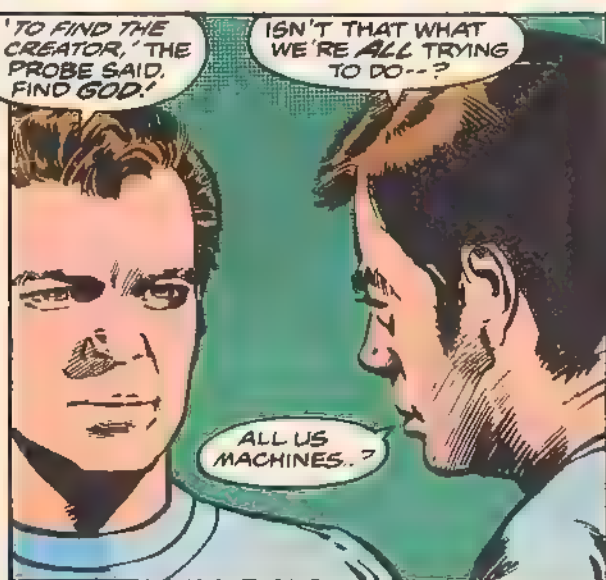
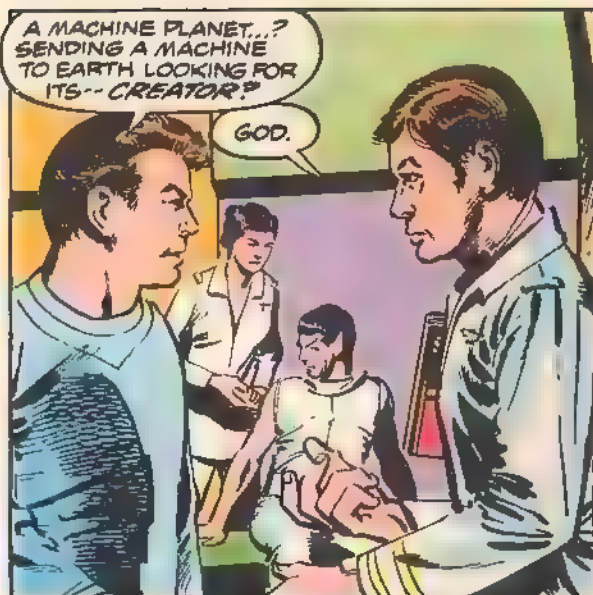
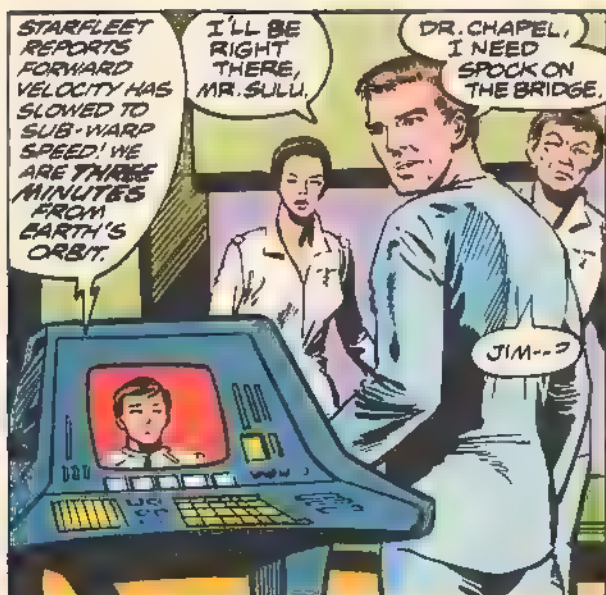
WHAT SHOULD
YOU HAVE KNOWN?

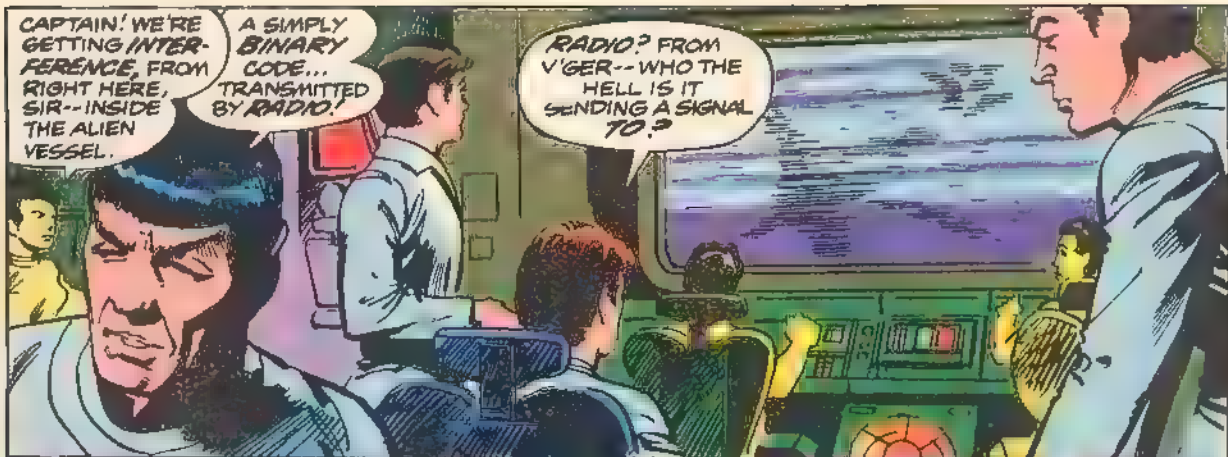


NO MEANING... NO
HOPE... AND, JIM--
NO ANSWERS.
JIM, IT'S LOOKING
FOR ANSWERS
ITSELF!

WHAT
ANSWERS?

'IS THIS ALL
I AM? IS THERE
NOT MORE?'

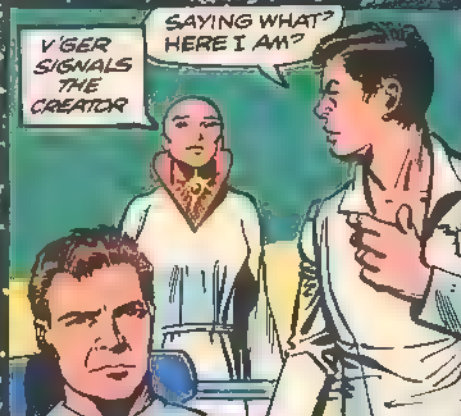




CAPTAIN! WE'RE
GETTING INTER-
FERENCE, FROM
RIGHT HERE,
SIR--INSIDE
THE ALIEN
VESSEL.

A SIMPLY
BINARY
CODE...
TRANSMITTED
BY RADIO!

RADIO? FROM
V'GER--WHO THE
HELL IS IT
SENDING A SIGNAL
TO?



V'GER
SIGNALS
THE
CREATOR

SAYING WHAT?
HERE I AM?



CAPTAIN! THE
INTRUDER IS
RELEASING
SEVERAL LARGE
OBJECTS...

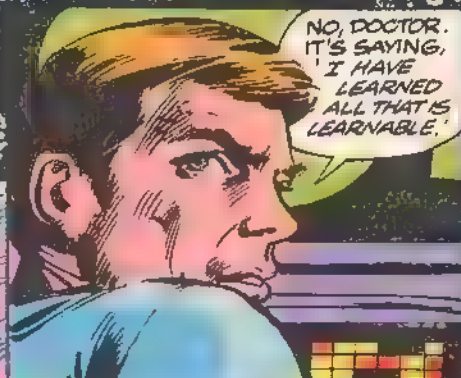
ALL
PLANETARY
DEFENSIVE
SYSTEMS
HAVE JUST
GONE INOP-
ERATIVE.

MY GOD!
THEY'RE THE
SAME THINGS
THAT HIT US!

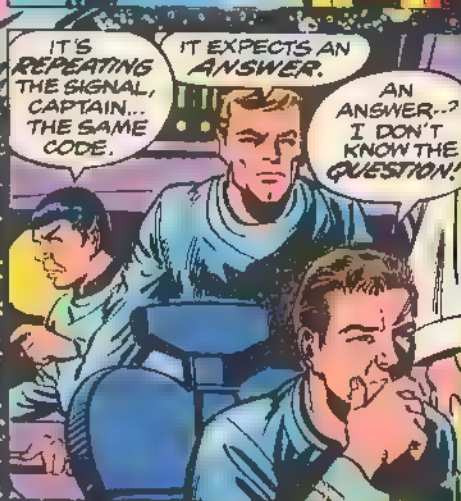
NO, DOCTOR...
EACH ONE IS
SEVERAL TIMES
MORE POWERFUL.
CAPTAIN,
FINAL POSITION-
ING WILL OCCUR
IN 29.2
MINUTES

AT WHICH TIME
DETENATION
WILL BLANKET THE
ENTIRE PLANET.

SIR, THEY'LL
DESTROY
EVERY LIVING
THING ON
EARTH!!



NO, DOCTOR.
IT'S SAYING,
'I HAVE
LEARNED
ALL THAT IS
LEARNABLE.'



IT'S
REPEATING
THE SIGNAL,
CAPTAIN...
THE SAME
CODE.

IT EXPECTS AN
ANSWER.

AN
ANSWER...?
I DON'T
KNOW THE
QUESTION!



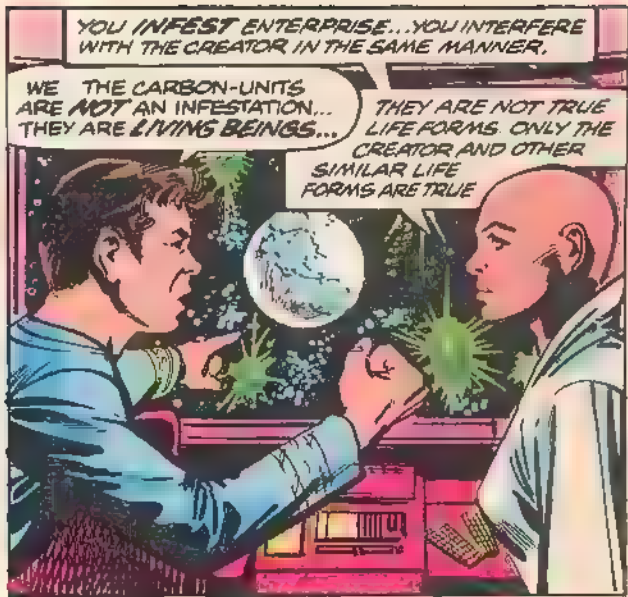
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

THE CARBON-UNIT INFESTATION IS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE CREATOR'S PLANET.

WHY??

THE CREATOR HAS NOT RESPONDED.

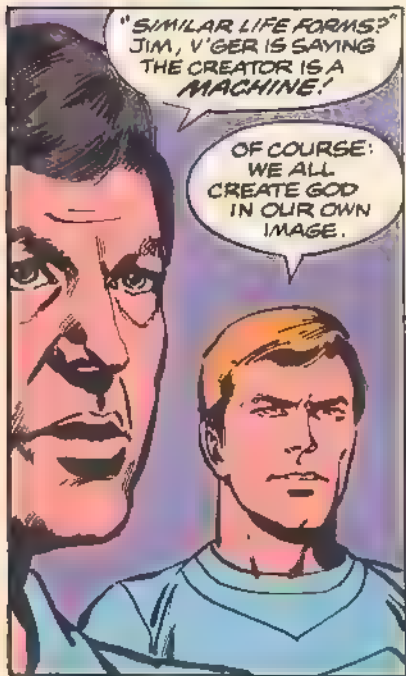
WE'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT.



YOU INFEST ENTERPRISE...YOU INTERFERE WITH THE CREATOR IN THE SAME MANNER.

WE THE CARBON-UNITS ARE NOT AN INFESTATION... THEY ARE LIVING BEINGS...

THEY ARE NOT TRUE LIFE FORMS. ONLY THE CREATOR AND OTHER SIMILAR LIFE FORMS ARE TRUE



"SIMILAR LIFE FORMS?" JIM, V'GER IS SAYING THE CREATOR IS A MACHINE!

OF COURSE: WE ALL CREATE GOD IN OUR OWN IMAGE.



V'GER, IF WE ARE LESSER BEINGS, WE ARE STILL, LIKE YOU-- LIVING! AND BECAUSE WE ARE ALIVE, WE, LIKE YOU, WISH TO SURVIVE. YOU **MUST NOT DESTROY!**

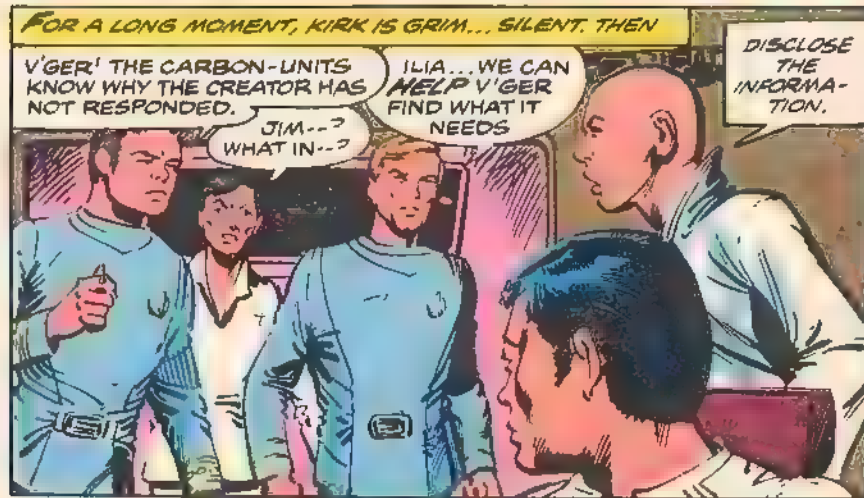
CAPTAIN!



TREAT V'GER AS YOU WOULD... A CHILD.

A CHILD.. ?

EVOLVING... LEARNING... SEARCHING... INSTINCTIVELY NEEDING.



FOR A LONG MOMENT, KIRK IS GRIM... SILENT. THEN

V'GER! THE CARBON-UNITS KNOW WHY THE CREATOR HAS NOT RESPONDED.

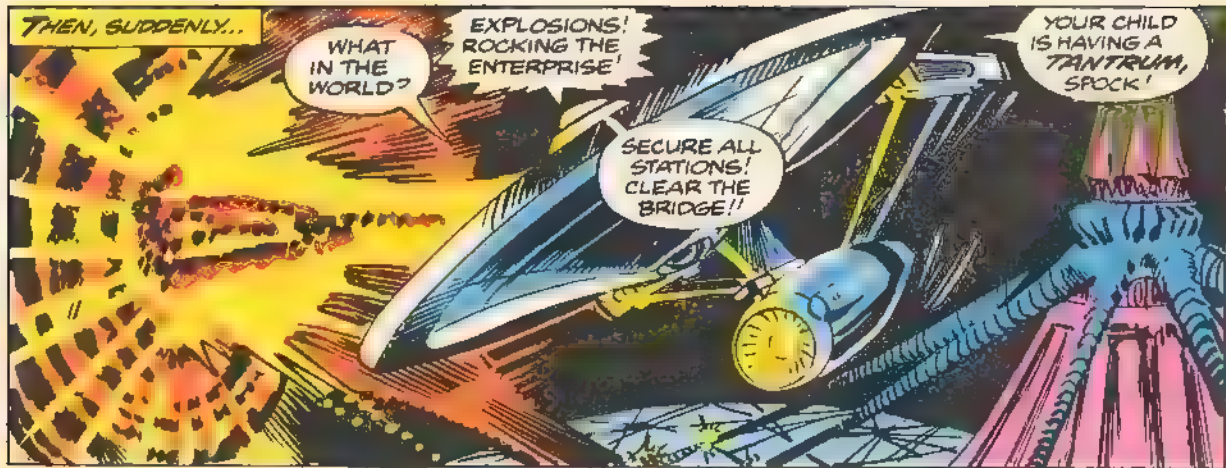
ILIA... WE CAN **HELP** V'GER FIND WHAT IT NEEDS

JIM--? WHAT IN--?

DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION.



NOT UNTIL V'GER WITHDRAWS THE DEVICES ORBITING THE THIRD PLANET.



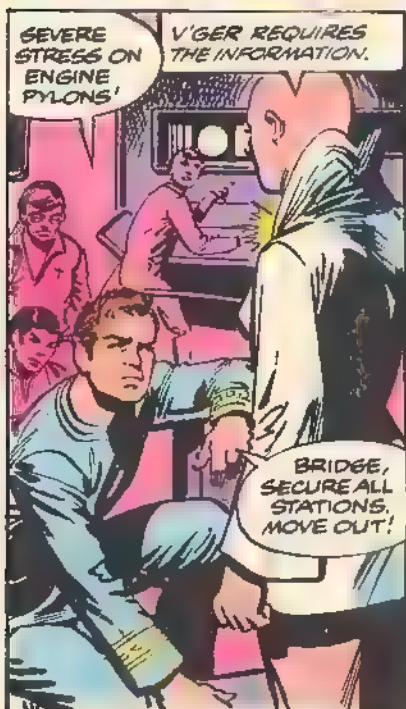
THEN, SUDDENLY...

WHAT
IN THE
WORLD?

EXPLOSIONS!
ROCKING THE
ENTERPRISE!

SECURE ALL
STATIONS!
CLEAR THE
BRIDGE!!

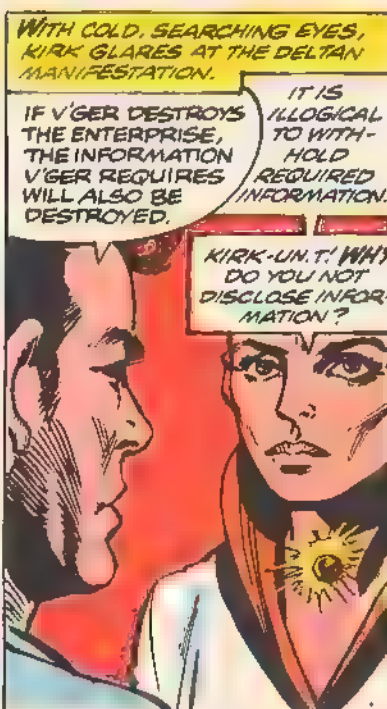
YOUR CHILD
IS HAVING A
TANTRUM,
SPOCK!



SEVERE
STRESS ON
ENGINE
PYLONS!

V'GER REQUIRES
THE INFORMATION.

BRIDGE,
SECURE ALL
STATIONS.
MOVE OUT!

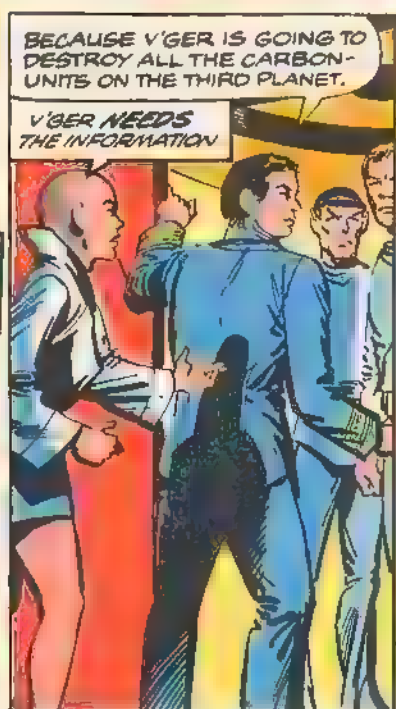


WITH COLD, SEARCHING EYES,
KIRK GLARES AT THE DELTAN
MANIFESTATION.

IF V'GER DESTROYS
THE ENTERPRISE,
THE INFORMATION
V'GER REQUIRES
WILL ALSO BE
DESTROYED.

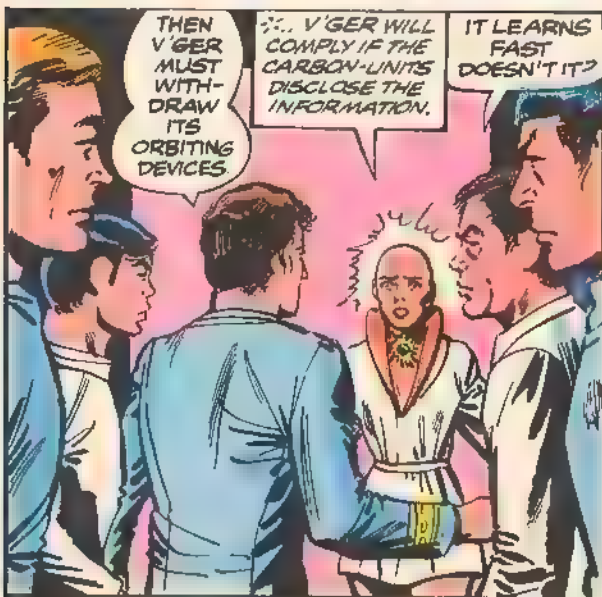
IT IS
ILLOGICAL
TO WITH-
HOLD
REQUIRED
INFORMATION.

KIRK-UNT! WHY
DO YOU NOT
DISCLOSE INFOR-
MATION?



BECAUSE V'GER IS GOING TO
DESTROY ALL THE CARBON-
UNITS ON THE THIRD PLANET.

V'GER NEEDS
THE INFORMATION



THEN
V'GER
MUST
WITH-
DRAW
ITS
ORBITING
DEVICES

... V'GER WILL
COMPLY IF THE
CARBON-UNITS
DISCLOSE THE
INFORMATION.

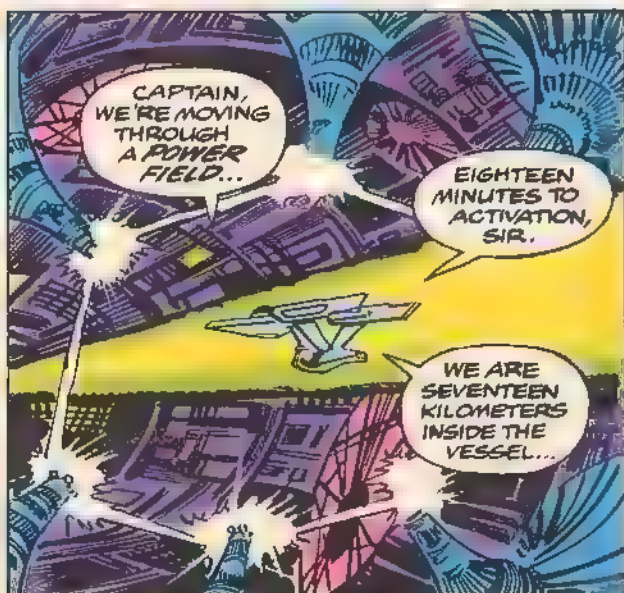
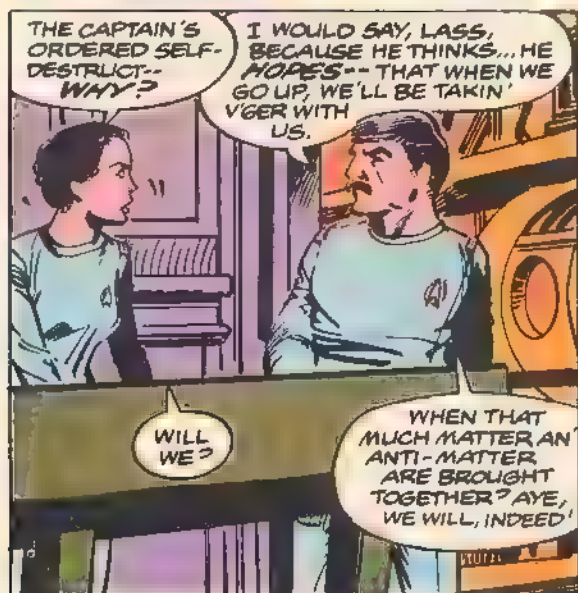
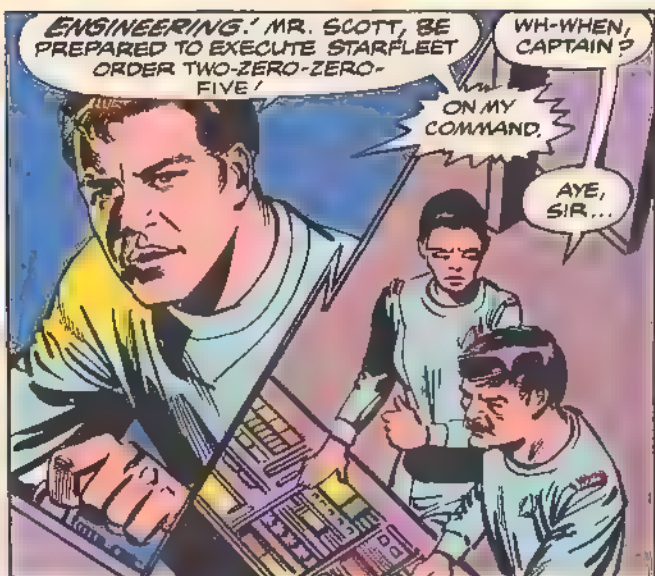
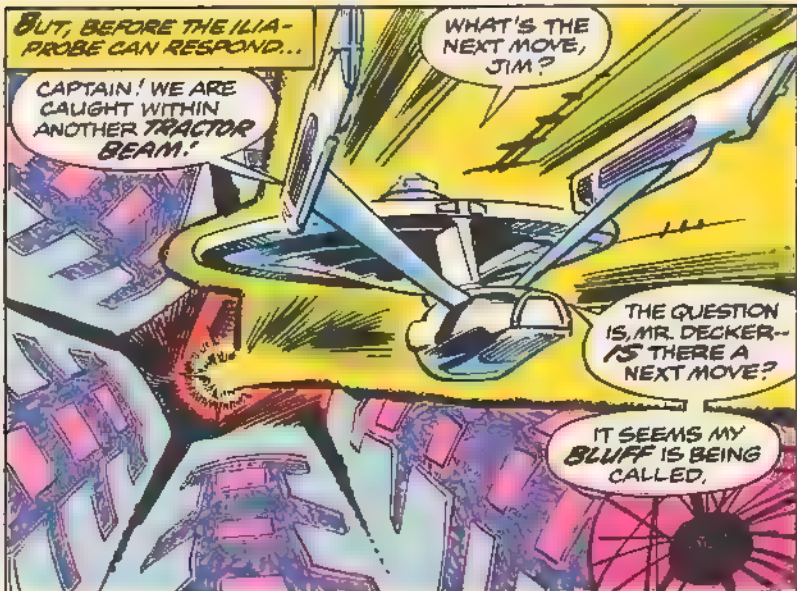
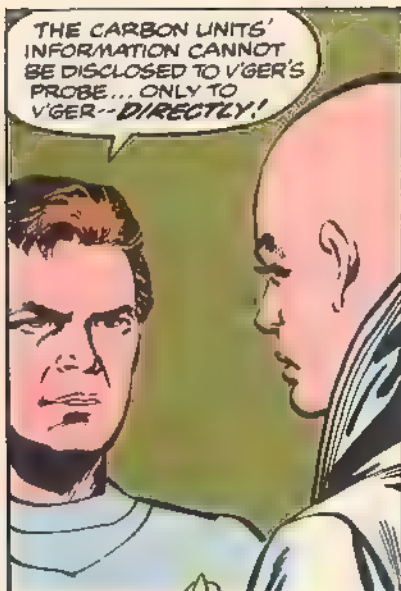
IT LEARNS
FAST
DOESN'T IT?



CAPTAIN, V'GER,
OBVIOUSLY
OPERATES
FROM A CENTRAL
BRAIN COMPLEX.

THE ORBITING DEVICES
WOULD BE CONTROLLED
FROM THAT POINT,
THEN?

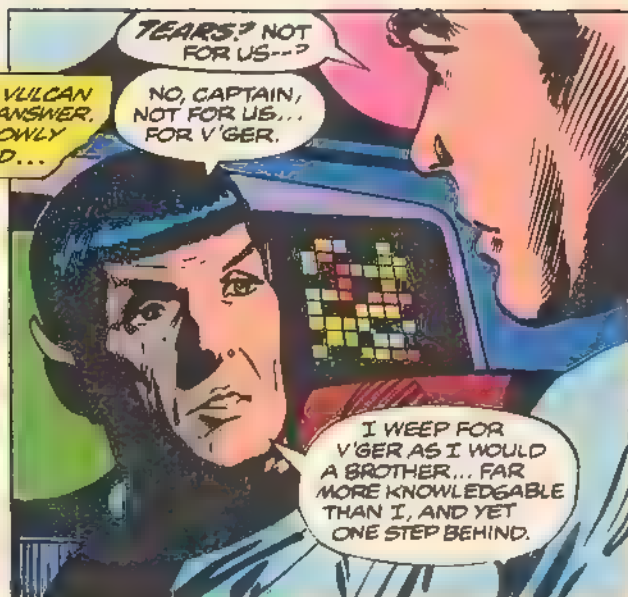
PRECISELY





SPOCK...
SPOCK, I--

THE LEAN VULCAN
DOES NOT ANSWER.
BUT HE SLOWLY
TURNS, AND...



TEARS? NOT
FOR US--?

NO, CAPTAIN,
NOT FOR US...
FOR V'GER.

I WEEP FOR
V'GER AS I WOULD
A BROTHER... FAR
MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE
THAN I, AND YET
ONE STEP BEHIND.

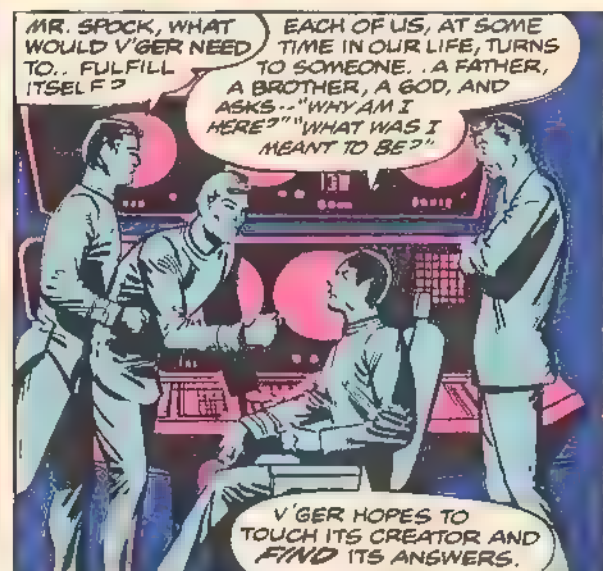


AS I WAS WHEN I
CAME ABOARD, SO IS
V'GER NOW; EMPTY,
INCOMPLETE--
SEARCHING.

LOGIC AND
KNOWLEDGE
ARE NOT
ENOUGH.

ARE YOU SAYING
YOU FOUND
WHAT YOU NEEDED,
BUT V'GER
HAS NOT?

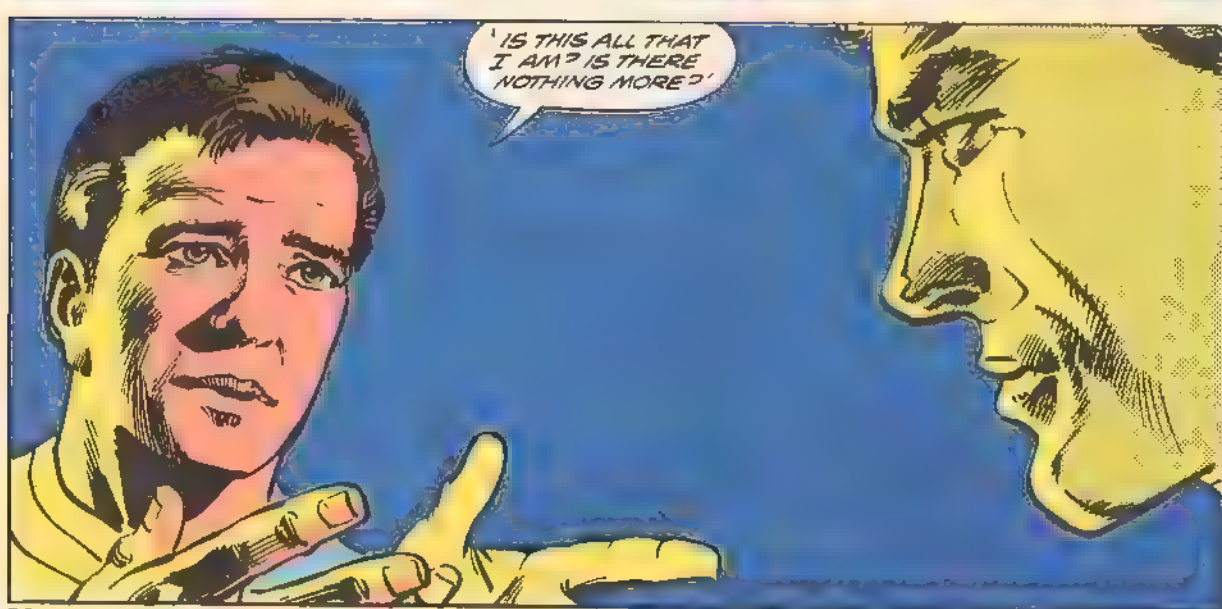
HAS NOT, DOCTOR, AND
NOW, BECAUSE OF WHAT WE'RE
PLANNING--WILL NOT.



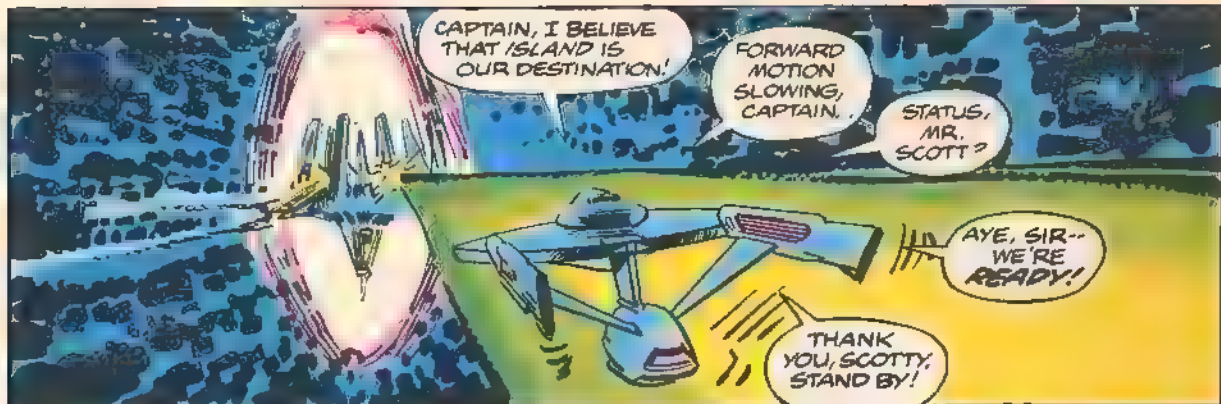
MR. SPOCK, WHAT
WOULD V'GER NEED
TO... FULFILL
ITSELF?

EACH OF US, AT SOME
TIME IN OUR LIFE, TURNS
TO SOMEONE... A FATHER,
A BROTHER, A GOD, AND
ASKS--"WHY AM I
HERE?" "WHAT WAS I
MEANT TO BE?"

V'GER HOPES TO
TOUCH ITS CREATOR AND
FIND ITS ANSWERS.



'IS THIS ALL THAT
I AM? IS THERE
NOTHING MORE?'



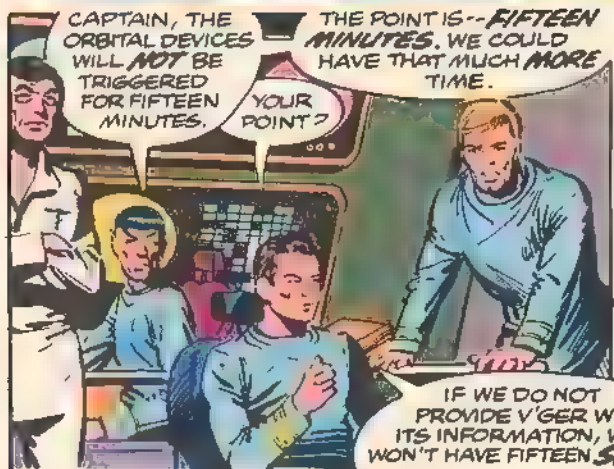
CAPTAIN, I BELIEVE THAT ISLAND IS OUR DESTINATION!

FORWARD MOTION SLOWING, CAPTAIN.

STATUS, MR. SCOTT?

AYE, SIR-- WE'RE READY!

THANK YOU, SCOTTY. STAND BY!

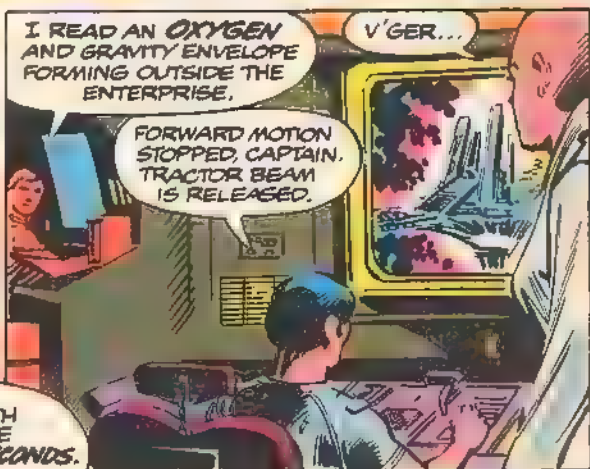


CAPTAIN, THE ORBITAL DEVICES WILL **NOT** BE TRIGGERED FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES.

THE POINT IS-- **FIFTEEN MINUTES**. WE COULD HAVE THAT MUCH MORE TIME.

YOUR POINT?

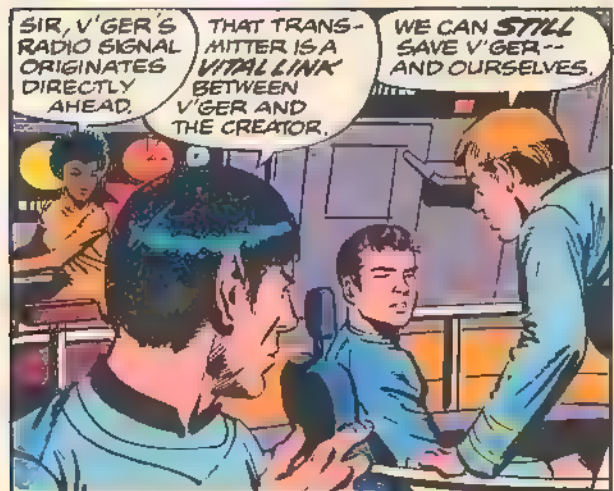
IF WE DO NOT PROVIDE V'GER WITH ITS INFORMATION, WE WON'T HAVE FIFTEEN **SECONDS**.



I READ AN **OXYGEN** AND GRAVITY ENVELOPE FORMING OUTSIDE THE ENTERPRISE.

V'GER...

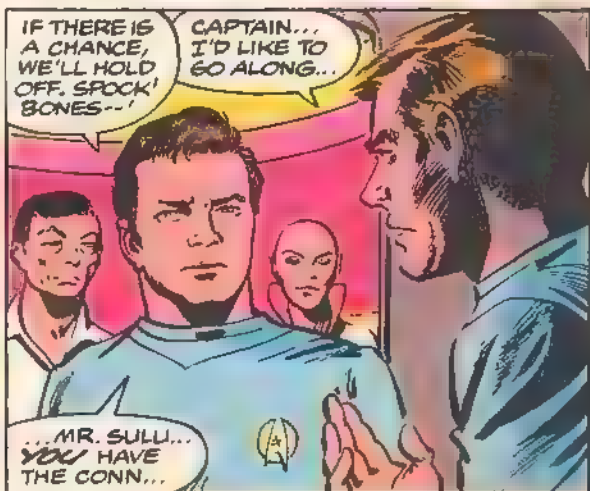
FORWARD MOTION STOPPED, CAPTAIN. TRACTOR BEAM IS RELEASED.



SIR, V'GER'S RADIO SIGNAL ORIGINATES DIRECTLY AHEAD.

THAT TRANSMITTER IS A **VITAL LINK** BETWEEN V'GER AND THE CREATOR.

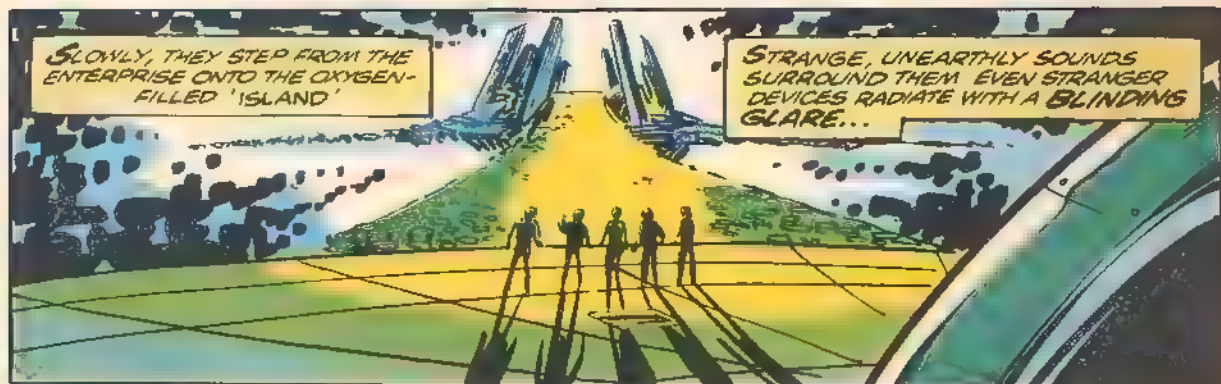
WE CAN **STILL** SAVE V'GER-- AND OURSELVES.



IF THERE IS A CHANCE, WE'LL HOLD OFF. SPOCK! BONES--!

CAPTAIN... I'D LIKE TO GO ALONG...

...MR. SULLI... YOU HAVE THE CONN...



SLOWLY, THEY STEP FROM THE ENTERPRISE ONTO THE OXYGEN-FILLED 'ISLAND'

STRANGE, UNEARTHLY SOUNDS SURROUND THEM. EVEN STRANGER DEVICES RADIATE WITH A BLINDING GLARE...

BEFORE THEM IS
A BRILLIANT SHAFT
OF SHIMMERING
LIGHT THAT BATHES
THE YAWNING CHASM
BEYOND IN COLORS
AND SHADOWS
NEVER BEFORE
SEEN BY MAN.

STILL THEY MOVE ON, UNTIL THEY
STAND ABOVE THE VAST ARENA
OF THE "BRAIN HEMISPHERE."

AND PERCHED
WITHIN, AS IF
ENSHRINED...

V'GER!

WELL, AT LEAST
NOW WE KNOW
WHY V'GER
THINKS THE
CREATOR IS
ON EARTH

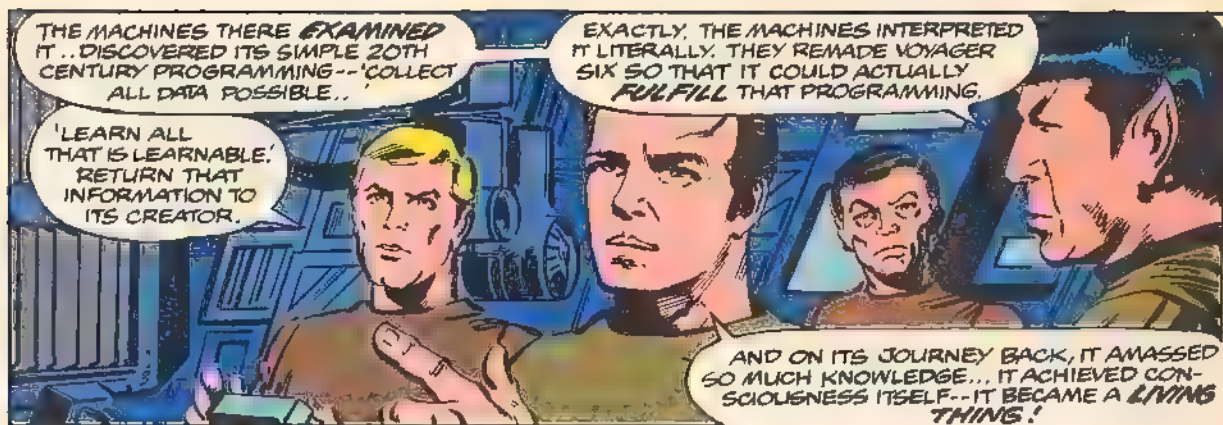
V-G-E-R.
V'GER...
VO-Y-A-G-E-R...
VOYAGER SIX!

JIM, THIS WAS
LAUNCHED
MORE THAN
THREE HUND-
RED YEARS
AGO

THE VOYAGER SERIES. DESIGNED
TO COLLECT DATA AND TRANSMIT
IT BACK TO EARTH

THIS ONE--
VOYAGER SIX
IS THE ONE THAT
DISAPPEARED
INTO WHAT WAS
THEN CALLED
A BLACK
HOLE!

IT MUST HAVE EMERGED
ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE
GALAXY, FELL INTO THE
MACHINE PLANET'S GRAVI-
TATIONAL FIELD!

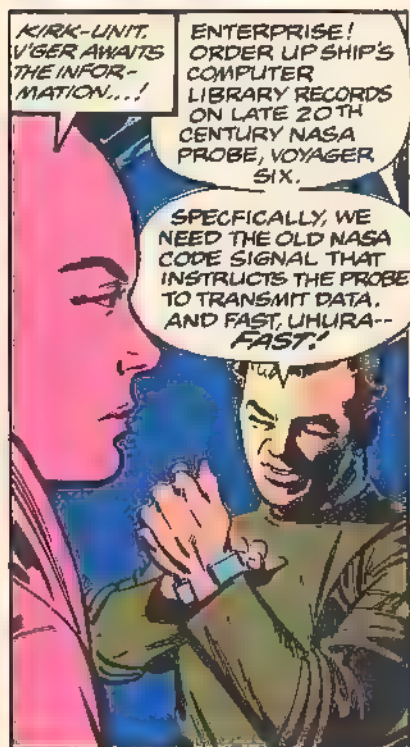


THE MACHINES THERE **EXAMINED** IT...DISCOVERED ITS SIMPLE 20TH CENTURY PROGRAMMING--"COLLECT ALL DATA POSSIBLE..."

EXACTLY. THE MACHINES INTERPRETED IT LITERALLY. THEY REMADE VOYAGER SIX SO THAT IT COULD ACTUALLY **FULFILL** THAT PROGRAMMING.

'LEARN ALL THAT IS LEARNABLE.' RETURN THAT INFORMATION TO ITS CREATOR.

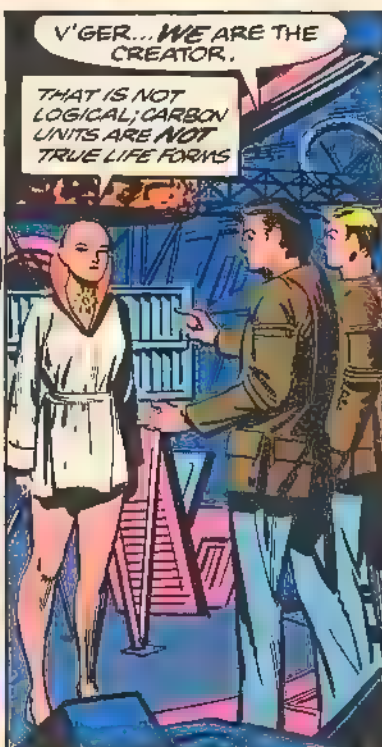
AND ON ITS JOURNEY BACK, IT AMASSED SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE... IT ACHIEVED CONSCIOUSNESS ITSELF--IT BECAME A **LIVING THING!**



KIRK-UNIT. V'GER AWAITS THE INFORMATION...!

ENTERPRISE! ORDER UP SHIP'S COMPUTER LIBRARY RECORDS ON LATE 20TH CENTURY NASA PROBE, VOYAGER SIX.

SPECIFICALLY, WE NEED THE OLD NASA CODE SIGNAL THAT INSTRUCTS THE PROBE TO TRANSMIT DATA. AND FAST, UHURA--**FAST!**



V'GER... **WE ARE THE CREATOR.**

THAT IS NOT LOGICAL; CARBON UNITS ARE **NOT** TRUE LIFE FORMS



WE WILL PROVE IT... BY MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR V'GER TO COMPLETE ITS PROGRAMMING. **ONLY** THE CREATOR, COULD ACCOMPLISH THAT, ENTERPRISE...

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE RESPONSE CODE, CAPTAIN.

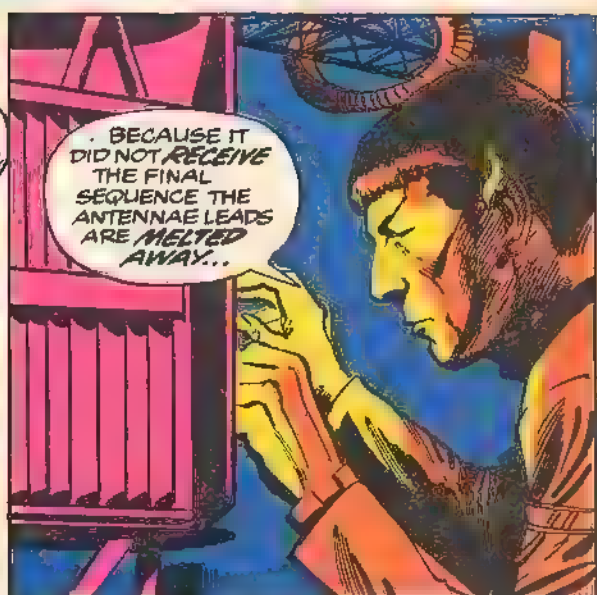
TRANSMIT NOW!



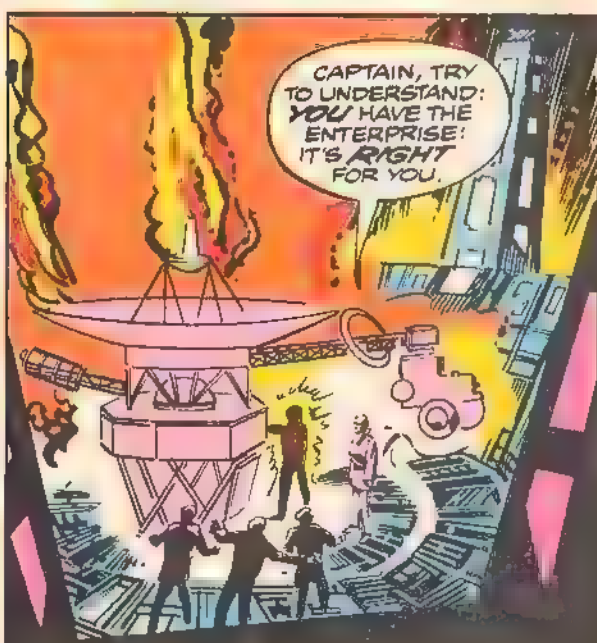
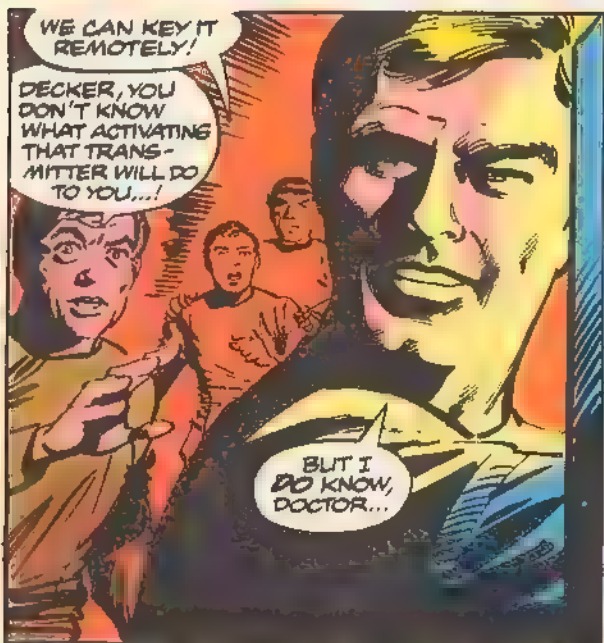
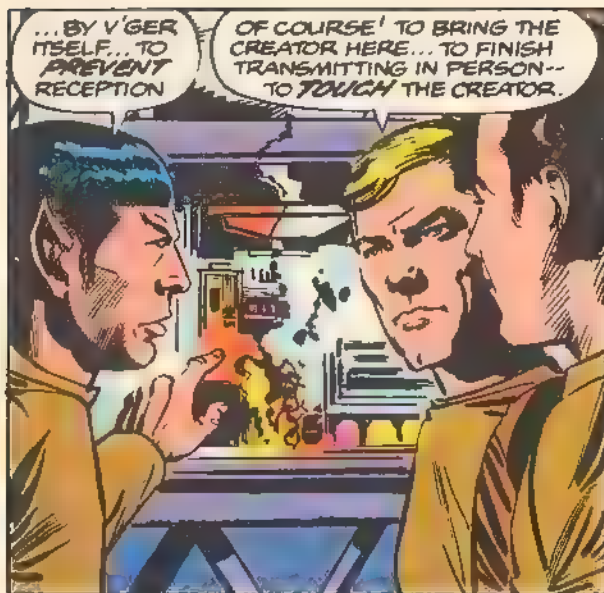
504-329-317-510... AND THE FINAL SEQUENCE...

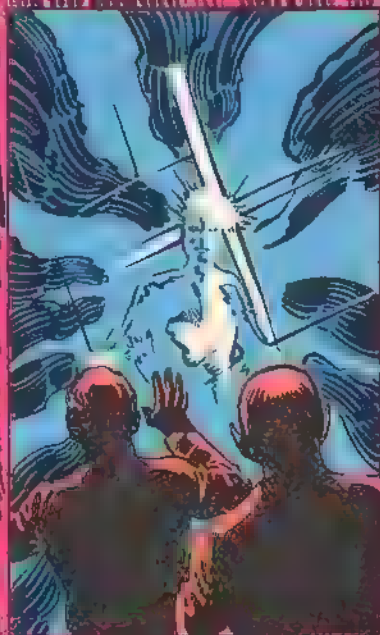
THAT SHOULD TRIGGER VOYAGER SIX'S TRANSMITTER

VOYAGER SIX IS **NOT** TRANSMITTING, CAPTAIN...



BECAUSE IT DID NOT **RECEIVE** THE FINAL SEQUENCE THE ANTENNAE LEADS ARE **MELTED AWAY...**



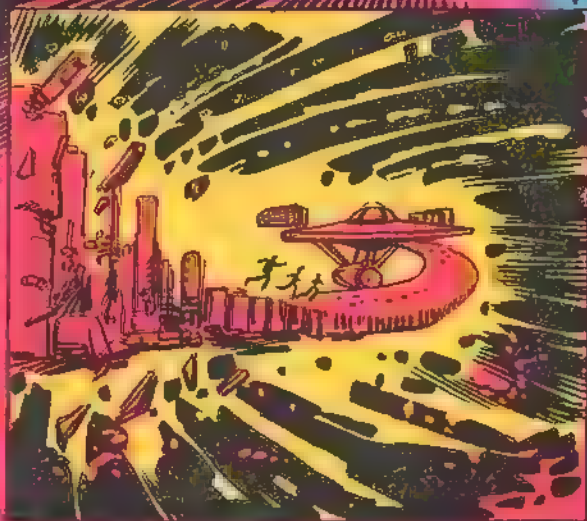


AND GOD SAID: LET
THERE BE LIGHT...



AND THERE
WAS LIGHT.

AND THE LIGHT
WAS GOOD.



ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...

MR. SPOCK, DID WE JUST SEE THE BEGINNING OF A NEW LIFE FORM?

YES, CAPTAIN... WE WITNESSED THE BIRTH-- POSSIBLY THE NEXT STEP IN OUR EVOLUTION.

I WONDER?

WELL, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I DELIVERED A BABY. I HOPE WE GAVE IT A GOOD START!

I THINK WE GAVE IT THE ABILITY TO CREATE ITS OWN SENSE OF PURPOSE... OUT OF OUR OWN HUMAN WEAKNESSES... AND THE DRIVE THAT COMPELS US TO OVERCOME THEM.

...AND A LOT OF FOOLISH HUMAN EMOTIONS, RIGHT, SPOCK?

INTERROGATIVE FROM STARFLEET, REQUEST DAMAGE AND INJURY REPORT AND COMPLETE VESSEL STATUS.

REPORT THREE CASUALTIES.. NO, NOT CASUALTIES

LIST THEM AS MISSING. VESSEL STATUS, FULLY OPERATIONAL.

MR. SCOTT, SHALL WE GIVE THE ENTERPRISE A PROPER SHAKE-DOWN?

I WOULD SAY IT'S TIME FOR THAT. AYE, SIR.

UNNECESSARY, MR. SCOTT. MY TASK ON VULCAN IS COMPLETED

IN THAT CASE, AHEAD WARP ONE, MR. SULLI.

HEADING, SIR?

WARP ONE, SIR.

OUT THERE. THATAWAY

...AN' WE CAN HA'E YOU BACK ON VULCAN IN FOUR DAYS, MR. SPOCK.

A MOST LOGICAL CHOICE, CAPTAIN.

The End

STAR TREK

—THE PHENOMENON

by Tom Rogers

It all began on September 8, 1966, at 8:30 pm. On that fateful day, NBC-TV aired the first episode of a new series, *The Man Trap*, from a little science-fiction gem entitled **Star Trek**. Never before has humanity seen such a program on the tube, and this was immediately obvious to most. The episode, produced by creator Gene Roddenberry and written by Georg Clayton Johnson, was about some space sailors who went around in a marvelously-designed starship called the **U.S.S. Enterprise**. Earlier that year, *TV Guide* had described the concept as a "**Wagon Train** of the stars" or some such nonsense. **Wagon Train** had been a fairly well-done weekly western, and there was nothing really uncommon about it. **Star Trek**, on the other hand, was very definitely **unique**.

Prior to 1966, only one other sf effort on television had contained any adult appeal because of its quality and frequent intellectualism: Joe Stefano's **The Outer Limits** (ABC-TV). That was an anthology series without any continuing characters. **Star Trek** was something far more difficult to create: a regular weekly production with continuing characters. The concept was mind-boggling, since it had never been done **right** before.

"*Man Trap*" was without a doubt an offering that was in the style of **The Outer Limits**. It dealt with a murderous salt-eating creature from another world that possessed intelligence, telepathy, and a shape-changing ability. There were excellent directional techniques, fine production values, rampant sexual allusions, **death** and **destruction**, and the intriguing new characters. Of course, there were also the somewhat silly phasers, which at one point intoxicated a man into a slow-motion speech by affecting his nervous system. Nonetheless, this was certainly worth watching, and it quickly set the trend for a lot of TV science-fiction that was to follow.

One week later, the program deteriorated a bit into something that had a much tamer theme, "Charlie X," about a human teenager who was raised by telekinetic aliens. He was emotionally immature, nearly omnipotent by our standards, and really nasty. In spite of itself, this tale of a youth's sexual awakening was filled with pathos and tragedy, and it brought tears to the eyes of many viewers. **Star Trek** was by no means common TV junk. There was hope for this generation of viewers; the days of **Lost in Space** and its ilk were, hopefully, finally over.

The succeeding episode, "Where No Man Has Gone Before" (the theme of the show), was back on the beam. Herein Kirk and the rest of the **Enterprise** crew were challenged by an Earthling with godlike powers. Spock, the halfbreed Vulcan, urged, "Kill him," as their foe's ability grew, but his good human captain would not hear of it—

until it was too late. On the other hand, the very idea of a good guy slaying someone in cold blood had practically never been seen on the tube, but we all knew that the pointy-eared cutie was dead right when he made the suggestion. We were back to serious activities of death and destruction, and we were loving every minute of it. (Actually, this was supposed to be the very first **Star Trek** adventure, but NBC had shown them out of sequence. Already, the network executives were causing a problem with a series that they would later consider to be inconsequential.)

This was how it was, pretty much, for the next two years—except that the regular characters became considerably more complicated. Moreover, the crew was an integrated one with Blacks, Orientals, Russians, and even one who somewhat resembled the Devil (incidentally, NBC wanted to drop Mr. Spock after the first year because they felt that his alarming visage was offensive to the Bible Belt, but Roddenberry would not comply). Uniquely, there was a great deal of death, sex, and scantily clad women on the program, and most of the scripts were far above average. The viewers, naturally, loved it, and a cult following immediately began.

When NBC announced that **Star Trek** was going to be canceled after its second season, the fans let themselves really be heard for the first time. A massive letter-writing campaign ensued, led by people like Bjo Trimble (**Star Trek Concordance**) and the network was soon deluged by approximately **one million letters** asking, demanding, pleading, threatening that **Star Trek** be renewed. There were rallies and protest marches in New York and California, and all manner of other evidence that there were a lot of product buying viewers who liked the program enough to fight for its return. Consequently, NBC renewed **Star Trek** by announcing it **on the air** (a precedent) after an episode that was rerun one evening. They desperately wanted people to stop writing in, because it had become much too costly for them to keep up with the incredible volume of mail. The movement had succeeded, but the network managed to sabotage the show nonetheless. They scheduled it for Fridays at 10:00 pm, after **Laugh-In**, and it died after the third season. Or did it?

Almost immediately, all 79 episodes were packaged by Paramount TV and syndicated. Most wise station programmers decided to run the episodes at least five times a week, and the show became more popular than ever. **Star Trek** was distributed across the world, and it's even now still experiencing fantastic popularity; for example, it's



available in 114 American cities. Not many series have ever had such a response from the public (*I Love Lucy* is one of them), and few will in the future.

Speaking of the future, that is what **Star Trek** is all about. It gives us something to look forward to: a time in the 23rd century when humanity has become one. There is almost no prejudice, and most vices have been suppressed in favor of a truism and dedication to a cause. The latter is the growth, development and protection of the United Federation of Planets, and intergalactic brotherhood that encompasses all friendly races. Nearly everyone lives in harmony and peace, and Starfleet spaceships patrol the universe in a never-ending quest for peace, love and friendship. The Federation is determined to help sentient beings everywhere, yet they are constantly threatened by unfriendly lifeforms. In the long run, though, the wisdom of its officers and enlisted personnel often win out, and hope for a much better tomorrow is renewed.

These are human dramas, often filled with sensitive portrayals, dealing with realistic characterizations and extremely likeable people. They are often scientifically plausible in a fanciful sense, and they strive to keep young people interested in worthy endeavors like our country's space program. A view of futuristic societies—many of which, including Earth, are veritable utopias—is presented. The human potential is dealt with in a highly optimistic manner, and the futuristic people are, in essence, what we would like to be. Technology is highly advanced, and there are starships that can span entire solar systems in very short periods of time. The thrill of such accomplishments, as well as the marvelous sense of wonder, give one a wonderful thrill when the viewer considers that this might really happen someday. Many alien races work hand in hand with humanity to reach out and boldly go where no person has ever gone before.

The obvious philosophical messages are equally intriguing. There are tales dealing with gods (a relative term, naturally), monsters, sex, emotions, ambition, optimism, misguided civilizations, prejudice and so on, and they were often very well executed. There are also occasional misinterpretations on the part of the regular cast. The characters try to keep an open mind, realizing that others have different beliefs and ways of life. However, the viewer is shown—often in subtle ways—that a negative approach is often very dangerous, embarrassing and/or tragic. Our universe is vast, and there is undoubtedly a lot in it that we are totally unfamiliar with.

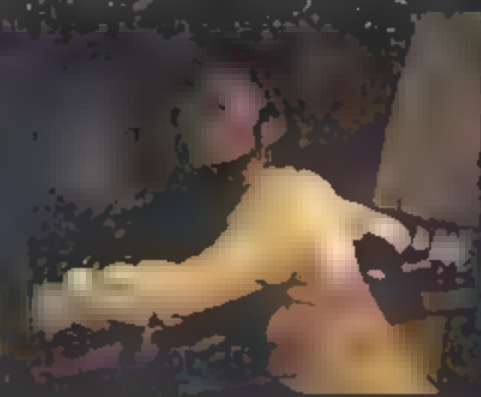
On more obvious levels, the 79 episodes are a great deal of fun. For the most part, they had good character-

izations, mystery, intrigue, humor, suspense, pathos, moral lessons, and so on. The direction was generally superior, special effects were certainly above average, and most aliens were convincing (often, humanoid civilizations were dealt with, exposing us to a variety of similar societies and mores). The stories, themselves, were generally well written and competently acted, and the sets and costuming were very impressive and colorful. This was a quality production, and an expensive one for the period, too.

Noted scientist and writer Isaac Asimov, is reported to have stated that **Star Trek** was the purest representation of true science-fiction on television. Many others agree with him (myself included), despite the fact that it has been in reruns for ten years now. It remains one of the best series of all time—if not **the best**.

Unfortunately, things changed a bit when 1973 rolled around. On September 15 of that year, the animated program made its debut, and it was a disappointment. While it wasn't bad for a Saturday morning TV show, it presented **Star Trek** stories that were simply awful when compared to the live-action episodes. Not only were they kiddie-oriented (which, of course, is to be expected, considering the medium and timeslot), but a number of them deviated so much from the original continuity that they made glaring mistakes and even altered the series' history. The initial adventures had been filmed in a logical sequence, often reflecting events that had occurred in earlier episodes. Everything had a purpose, and a believable mythos was established based on the characters and their experiences. The animated offerings presented a number of sequels to the originals that made little sense at all, bringing back old characters and changing them. A mature series had become a juvenile one, and this was a travesty. All of the elements that had made **Star Trek** great were toned down in this highly annoying version, and a lot of fans consider these tales to be part of an alternate universe. Others ignore the animated episodes, pretending that they never existed in the first place. The cartoons served little purpose in making the show a continued phenomenon, except perhaps among young children who had never seen the other 79 adventures. For all intents and purposes, we too, will forget about the cartoons for the remainder of this article.

Don't get me wrong—not all **Star Trek** episodes were excellent. While some received various deserved awards, others were so bad that they should never have been made. A prime example is "Spock's Brain," which was the **first one** aired during the third season! Another was "The Way to Eden," about space hippies. You can't always



have a winner, but the original **Star Trek** has much more than its share of greatness.

Some of the more controversial episodes dealt with religion, politics, war and other series taboos. Consequently, certain episodes were never shown in various areas of the United States because station managers felt that their viewers would be offended. More often, though, entire scenes were cut out to make the adventures more subdued, less violent, and far less intellectual. Even today, this practice is still in effect in a variety of locales.

Many people who are not enthused by **Star Trek** think of its fans as being very strange people—malcontents, freaks, brain damaged outcasts of society who have nothing better to do with their lives than to idolize a "dumb science-fiction show." While a few "Trekkies," as we are called, might fit into that category, the vast majority of us do not. For the most part, the program's fans consist of some highly intelligent and sophisticated individuals. There are famous writers, scientists, businesspeople, and even government officials who proudly proclaim that they like the show. The average Trekkie is of above-average intelligence, and has a sense of wonder that sets him apart from those unfortunate enough to lack an appreciation for **Star Trek** and/or science-fiction in general. Not all sf enthusiasts are Trekkies, and not all Trek fans are sf buffs, but the two often go together. However, **Star Trek** is not "merely" sf-oriented. There are episodes that have themes encompassing military justice, the Old West, World War I, submarine-type warfare, Ancient Greece, and so on. There is something for everyone, when you really get down to it.

As the ever-popular saying goes, "**Star Trek** lives!" It definitely does, and one has only to look around to see it. We now—**finally**—have the monumental motion picture, and, as a result, a lot of tie-in merchandise is being released to the general public. However, for the past 13 years, it has been obvious that the program never died, despite all of NBC's efforts. There are close to 400 known fan clubs devoted to this program, and successful conventions have been held all over the world, and still are. There have even been a large number of Masters and Doctoral theses based on, or dealing partly with, **Star Trek**. The phenomenon also lives.

The first convention of this sort was given in New York City in January of 1972. About 600 people were expected to attend, but nearly 4000 showed up! This was largely because Gene and Majel (Barrett) Roddenberry, D.C. Fontana and Isaac Asimov were the guests. Since then, most—if not all—**Star Trek** cons have been extremely

successful. They almost always feature guests who were connected with the program.

The fan clubs are occasionally staggering in their scope and membership, and the **Star Trek** Welcomitee is the largest and most influential of these. It is a non-profit group of dedicated Trekkies who strive to help other organizations and individuals. They publish the **Directory of Star Trek Organizations**, a monthly newsletter, and other very useful brochures. Some of the fan clubs have members in all states of the Union, and there are many similar organizations located throughout the country. Likewise, there are some overseas, including England, France, Japan, West Germany, and so on. A few of them are devoted primarily to one or more actors from the show—and not just the regulars, either. There are a number of them honoring Mark Leonard, Mariette Hartley, and so on. For extensive information on this subject, as well as others, check out Grosset and Dunlap's trade-size paperback **A Star Trek Catalog**, by Gerry Turnbull and Neil Appelbaum. It contains a wealth of data, including addresses.

As of this writing, there are close to 50 different companies putting out authorized **Star Trek** merchandise, including some of America's top toy manufacturers and book publishers. In all, there are about 60 books available, including short story adaptations of the original episodes, photanovels with color scenes from separate missions, new adventures based on the program, and studies of the production and its effect on society.

There is no doubt that **Star Trek** has made a tremendous impact on our society, even the experimental space shuttle was named "Enterprise" in honor of the much-beloved series. Why, then, did it take so long for the movie to be released? There were a number of reasons, primarily those concerning money and the availability of the original stars. Just be happy, as I am, that **Star Trek—The Motion Picture** is finally upon us, with its fine script and incredible special effects, and hope that the next media adventure in the series will emerge in the not-too-distant future.

According to the show and its new film, there is hope for humanity. We will find our place in the stars, and even influence many societies. Long ago, H.G. Wells wrote about a variety of utopias, but they are still non-existent. Someday, hopefully, the days of the Federation will come to pass, and our descendants will benefit from a society that now exists only in our fantasies.

Star Trek must live forever, because it represents our eventual salvation.

Live long and prosper.

Touching Base with Reality



an interview with Jesco von Puttkamer

Mr. von Puttkamer was a science advisor to **Star Trek - The Motion Picture** and the Program Manager and Senior Staff Scientist of Future Programming at NASA.

Q: With the interest in science fiction, has there been an increase in the public interest in what NASA is doing? Also, has the federal government changed its attitude towards your funding?

A: There has been an outburst of manifest interest by individual segments of the public, however, the public is not organized and there is no grass-roots organization or movement which would concentrate this interest and make it work more effectively. We have had an increase in letters from science-fiction fans and the more general public wanting to know what this strange looking vehicle—the shuttle—is all about and what it means for the future. A very minor percentage of the public is interested in space—I would say the public at large is what I call apathetic about it. People at large are positive towards space and have what I call a warm feeling about it. However, they do not tell any one about it and so the people's congressional representatives do not realize that there may be undercurrents, a grass-root interest in space. Consequently they do not feel the space program has any priority. So every time the budget gets cut back because the nation has to economize to balance the budget, the space program is the first to be cut. This is because it is the easiest to touch. Approximately 70-75% of the budget is untouchable by law, you cannot reduce the funding for certain programs, social service care, veterans' programs, etc., are frozen and untouchable by the budget cutters. As a result, there is only a small portion of the national budget that can be massaged or reduced and the space program seems to be the easiest victim every time.

The way it looks, we wind up with a constant annual budget of around 4.3 or 4.5 billion dollars every year, which is about equal to the amount spent by HEW every seven days. So in reality our budget is just a tiny fragment, less than a cent per tax dollar.

Q: Is it true that approximately \$40 million was spent on the making of the **Star Trek** movie making it one of the most expensive, if not the most expensive films ever made?

A: I have heard lots of rumors but I cannot really make any statements on how much it cost. In fact, Michael Eisner, the president of Paramount in Hollywood, when he had the press conference in 1978, made the statement that this would be the most expensive film Paramount ever made. He stated that all the episodes of **Star Trek** combined would cost less than what the movie would cost.

Q: What are some of the new developments of the shuttle program?

A: We are looking forward to the first flight which was originally scheduled for Nov. 1979. Due to unforeseen mechanical problems, we rescheduled the launch to be-

tween March and June of 1980. This gives us more time to work out the problems and make the launch a good and safe flight.

The crew has already been chosen. It will be piloted by John Young, who has been in space four times. The shuttle will be co-piloted by Bob Crippen, who is a rookie astronaut.

Q: Why isn't the ENTERPRISE being used?

A: The ENTERPRISE was always to be a test vehicle for ground tests only. You need a ground facility or check out vehicle of that sort before you can safely commit to a manned flight in space. The other four orbiters are under various stages of development and are named, the COLUMBIA, which will be the first in space, the DISCOVERY, the CHALLENGER, and the ATLANTIS.

Q: Can you tell me more about the new astronaut recruiting program?

A: Two or three years ago, we selected 20 mission specialists, and 15 pilots. Mission specialists must have a scientific background in one of the following fields: chemistry, biology, physics, or mathematics, usually a Bachelor of Science, and either three years of related experience or a PhD are needed to qualify.

The pilots are more flight oriented. Pilots logically come from the Air Force or other Armed Services because the basic requirement is at least 1000 hours of piloting command flight experience in the high-performance jets such as the T-38 or the F-15. However, if a civilian had this type experience, there would be no reason he could not apply. Generally, to become a candidate for the shuttle program, you must be in reasonably good health, have the above educational requirements, and be between 60-74 inches in height. Applications for candidacy this year are being accepted between Oct. 1 and Dec. 1. Hopefully, applications can be accepted every year at this time.

In closing, if any of you have any questions about the astronaut program or want information on what is going on with the space program in general, please contact the following address:

Astronaut Candidate Program
Code A-X
NASA Johnson Space Center
Houston, TX 77058

or

NASA Headquarters
Information Code MTC
Washington, D.C. 20546

If you want the space program to continue and to get more funding so that we can make progress with the future, write letters to your congressional representatives and let them know how you feel and how you want them to vote on the space program's budget. It is up to you as voters to decide if you want a space program or not.

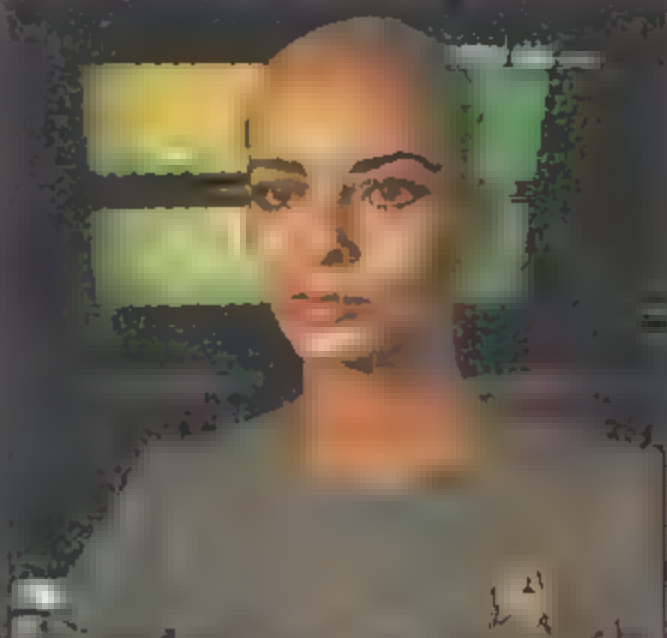
-Marion Stensgard

STAR TREK

THE MOTION PICTURE

GLOSSARY

by Tom Rogers



The following entries are, understandably, related to the **Star Trek** universe. However, they are particularly indicative of the new movie and its own unique concepts. You won't find listings for things like "Trlbbies," "Nomad," "Babel," or "Vaa," because they aren't in the motion picture. Nor will you find references specifically devoted to items like "Ship's Computer," "Bridge" (of the **U.S.S. Enterprise**) or "Vulcan" (the planet) due to the fact that they are too general, and besides, you already know all about that stuff. Again, these alphabetically arranged people and terms are those which are particularly relevant to the film.

A word of warning: we seriously suggest that you don't read this glossary before you have had an opportunity to ingest the preceding adaptation, or else certain things will be ruined for you. I give away plot devices and so on, and you wouldn't want to know about them in advance. Save this for last, then enjoy it.

AIR TRAM: An antigravity train that flies only a few feet off the ground, and carries passengers to areas within the San Francisco of the 23rd century. This is the first vehicle that Admiral Kirk uses in the film.

AMAR, IMPERIAL CRUISER: The command vehicle of the three Klingon starships that encounter V'Ger when it enters their sector of space (Quad 1-14). It is the last one to be destroyed by a whiplash energy bolt, immediately after it dispatches a warning message to Starfleet Monitor Station Epsilon 9.

ANDORIANS: Blue-skinned humanoid who have white hair and a pair of knobbed antennae protruding from their foreheads. Although they are generally small and slim, they are a fierce warrior race that belongs to the Federation.

ANTIMATTER: An extradimensional substance that, under normal conditions, destroys matter from our universe on contact. Starfleet scientists have succeeded in utilizing quantities of it to effect warp drive in selected vehicles. Regarding the **U.S.S. Enterprise**, it is located in the twin power nacelles that contain the warp engines. Early in the movie, an imbalance in the technique causes a Wormhole Distortion that threatens to destroy the **Enterprise**.

BLACK HOLE: A star that has collapsed in upon itself, causing an enormous area in space that sucks in everything which comes into its range. To date, one can only speculate what effect such a phenomenon has on matter, but herein a 20th century "Voyager" space probe is caught and hurled to another galaxy, where living metal creatures exist.

BRANCH, COMMANDER: The officer in charge of Starfleet Monitor Station Epsilon 9.

CREATOR: Term used by V'Ger to indicate its god—the being (in this case, beings) who created it. Long dead for three centuries, its NASA builders never imagined that it would one day merge with a living spaceship and return to Earth to menace humanity.

DALAPHAUNE: A potent drug that Dr. McCoy injects into Mr. Spock's bloodstream to strengthen the Vulcan. This occurs shortly after the alien attempts to mind-meld with V'Ger, and consequently goes into a coma.

DECKER, WILLARD: Captain of the **U.S.S. Enterprise** before Admiral Kirk assumes command. Afterward, he is temporarily reduced to the rank of Commander, and assumes the duties of both Executive and Science Officers until Spock relieves him of the latter responsibilities. He is resentful toward Kirk, and in love with Ilia. Ultimately, his sacrifice saves Earth and the starship.

DIFALCO, CHIEF: An officer on board the **U.S.S. Enterprise**, who fills in as navigator after T'Pol disappears, when the ship is caught within V'Ger's tractor beam.

FORCEFIELD: An invisible, nearly indestructible barrier that surrounds Federation, Klingon and Romulan starships. The intensity varies, depending on necessity. It is automatically activated by any material object that is on a collision course with a ship, which is detected by the sensors. Originally referred to as "Deflector Shields."

ILIA: A female Deitan, assigned as navigator of the **U.S.S. Enterprise**. She is a Lieutenant, Junior Grade, and "sworn



to celibacy. Hairless, except for her eyebrows and eyelashes, she is cold, calculated, and able to physically cause pain in others to subside. Despite the fact that she considers Earthlings to be "sexually inferior," she had a relationship with Captain Decker years ago, and still loves him. She is killed by V'Ger shortly after it kidnaps her.

ILIA II: The android duplicate of Ilia, which is teleported to the **U.S.S. Enterprise** after the Deltan dies. It is a nearly living probe designed by V'Ger, which duplicates the woman perfectly—externally as well as internally. Only the multicolored jewel embedded in the throat, in addition to the super-strength, distinguishes it from the original. Since it possesses the complete memory patterns of Ilia, it eventually enables the crew to save themselves—after which it is seemingly destroyed when Decker sacrifices himself.

KOLNAHR: The most revered condition among Vulcans. It divests one of all emotion and dedicates the individual to total logic. Those who have achieved this state become the supreme leaders of the race. Mr. Spock nearly succeeds, but fails because of V'Ger.

LANG, CHIEF: The officer in charge of the rescue teams when the **U.S.S. Enterprise** is trapped in V'Ger.

LANG, ENSIGN: A security man on board the **U.S.S. Enterprise**, who is with Kirk and other officers when they discover Ilia I.

LINGUACODE FRIENDSHIP MESSAGES: A 23rd century computer language that the Federation uses to contact new intelligent races. They are made up of a true universal language, which most civilizations are able to understand. When they are beamed at V'Ger, though, the creature ignores them because they are initially transmitted too slowly for it to notice. Spock saves the day when he speeds them up.

LUNAR MONITOR RELAY: A Starfleet station, located on Earth's Moon, which boosts subspace radio messages.

MEMORY CRYSTALS: A series of large, gemlike storage containers that serve as V'Ger's memory banks. In essence, they are like miniature television sets that contain the essence and exact patterns of all that the living spaceship has experienced. They are created by the

colorful sensor swarms that fly throughout the metallic being, and it is theorized that V'Ger's "dead" victims might actually be held captive within them.

NOGURA: A Starfleet Admiral of great renown, who is stationed in 23rd century San Francisco.

PHILLIPS: A Security Officer who is slain by V'Ger's amorphous probe.

PROBE, V'GER'S: A bloblike probe, composed of raw energy, that is created by V'Ger and teleported to the **U.S.S. Enterprise**. The 7-foot-tall monstrosity absorbs energy and information through deadly tendrils of light, can fire a limited whiplash energy bolt, and is able to override computer safeguards. After killing a security man, it engulfs Ilia in a binding flash and whisks her off to the creature's control center.

QUAD L-14: An area of deep space, located in Klingon territory, where V'Ger is first sighted. It is here that the unknown intruder destroys a trio of non-Federation starships.

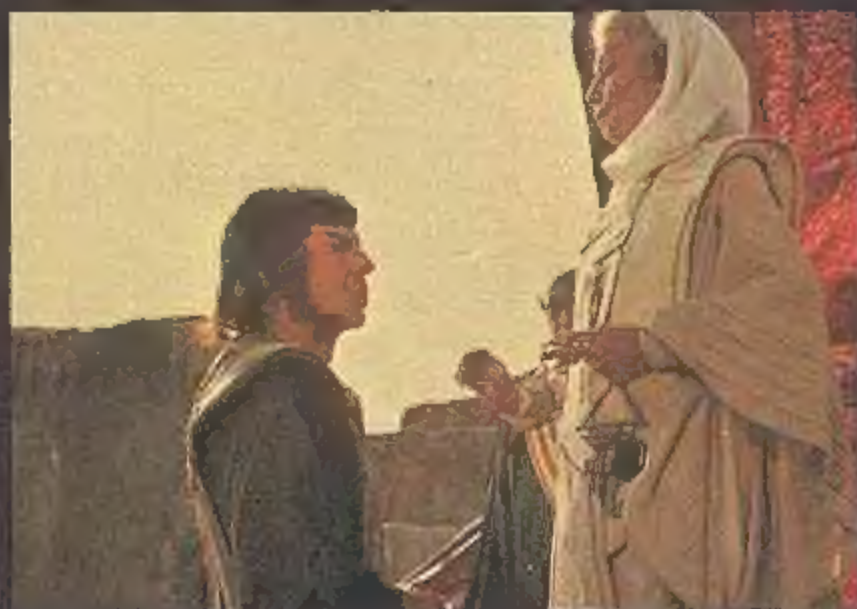
ROSS, CHIEF: A female member of the **U.S.S. Enterprise**.

SENSOR SWARMS: Tiny, multicolored sensor mechanisms that fly throughout V'Ger's interior, gathering information and storing it in Memory Crystals for future retrieval. A large one is embedded in the throat area of Ilia's android double.

SONAK: A Vulcan Lieutenant Commander, assigned as Science Officer of the **U.S.S. Enterprise**. Due to a transporter malfunction, he dies in a gruesome manner while attempting to reach the ship from Earth. Beaming up at the same time was a human female, whom he apparently merged with—literally—just before their demise.

STARDATE: A five-digit reference point in time that is used to begin entries in a starship's log. The first four numbers represent the date, while the remaining one stands for the hour. It also indicates the craft's location and speed.

STARFLEET: The branch of the Federation that governs the Space Navy, and which often makes decisions regarding the welfare of both members and non-members. It is dedicated to keeping peace in the universe, aiding oppressed and/or primitive societies, and making a better place for everyone who is willing to obey their rules.



STARFLEET COMMAND HEADQUARTERS: Located in 23rd century San Francisco, where the Golden Gate Bridge and Transamerica Pyramid Building are still preserved, this is where important Federation decisions are made.

STARFLEET MONITOR STATION EPSILON 9: A distant Federation outpost, established to keep a close eye on its sector of space. The personnel here warn Earth of V'Ger's approach, but the entire planetoid is eventually destroyed by the then-unknown adversary.

STARFLEET ORDER #2005: A coded, mandatory instruction to cause a Federation starship to self-destruct. Captain Kirk gives this command when it seems as though V'Ger will actually wipe out all life on Earth, but it is rescinded in time.

THRUSTER SUIT: A spacesuit containing a built-in rocket pack for maneuverability and extended range. It also contains a flashing strobelight, which is visible for miles, and this is what Captain Kirk uses to keep track of Mr. Spock when the latter leaves the confines of the ship to locate V'Ger's nerve center. Also known as an "Environmental Suit."

TRANSPORTER: A teleportation device that can be used to beam someone or something over great distances by breaking down the atomic structure in one place and re-assembling it elsewhere. Unfortunately, accidents often happen, and two crewmembers of the **U.S.S. Enterprise** are killed by a malfunction early in the film.

TRAVEL POD: A shortrange vehicle that is usually used to go from a planet to an orbiting ship, and vice versa. In the tale, Commander Scott flies one carrying Admiral Kirk to the **U.S.S. Enterprise**, which is in drydock undergoing extensive modifications.

23RD CENTURY: The period during which our story takes place. It is a wonderful time to live in, with prosperity and equality for all members of the Federation, but there is also the constant threat of extraterrestrial danger. V'Ger is just one example of such a problem.

UNITED FEDERATION OF PLANETS: A highly advanced group of civilized world in our galaxy that apparently stand for "Good, Justice and the American Way." Their

enforcement unit is known as "Starfleet." Also known as "the Federation."

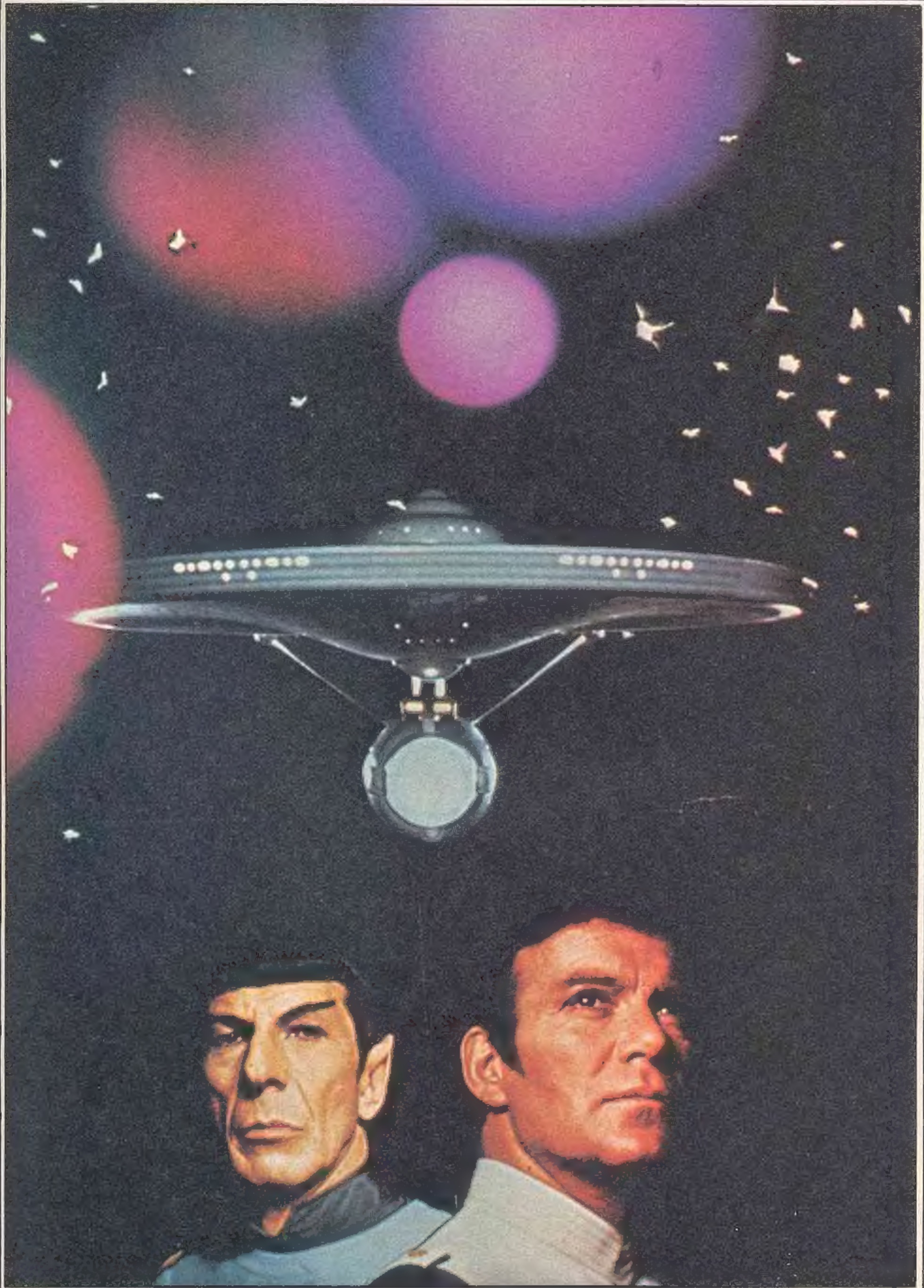
VEGANS: High-domed aliens, members of the Federation.

V'GER: An awesome, living spaceship from beyond our galaxy, which somehow merges with long-lost Voyager 6 and makes its way to Earth in search of God. Surrounded by a luminescent cloud that is the size of our solar system, it destroys all sentient living things in its path because it considers us akin to vermin. It has attained perfect logic, is totally without emotion, and is unbelievably advanced beyond 23rd century Federation technology. The craft, itself, is 78 kilometers in length, dwarfing the **U.S.S. Enterprise**, and it travels at mind-boggling speeds. It contains the sum total of universal knowledge, stored in Memory Crystals, and can even convert energy into matter. It makes amorphous probes, sensor swarms, near-living androids, is impervious to harm, and has almost limitless abilities. Nonetheless, it is empty and incomplete until Commander Decker's sacrifice enables it to mutate to a higher lifeform. Additionally, it is because of this being that Mr. Spock finally decides that his human side knows best on occasion.

VULCAN MASTERS: A legendary trio of completely emotionless Vulcans who have attained the extremely difficult disciplinary level of Kolinahr. They rule the planet with wisdom and strict adherence to their cold way of life. Currently, there are two males and one female—the latter of whom determines that Spock is not yet ready to receive their coveted honor.

WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT: A beam of tremendous power that is capable of destroying entire starships. Created by V'Ger, it whips around like a boomerang if it misses a target, and continues to seek its prey. Forcefields at full capacity can ward off one of these, but subsequent ones are able to obliterate everything.

WORMHOLE DISTORTION: A spiraling of stars and fluid light, narrowing into a deadly vortex. This space trap is caused by an imbalance in the antimatter engines, and jeopardizes the **U.S.S. Enterprise** early in the story. The cylindrical matter-time warp overloads main power systems and causes havoc with control consoles. It can often be dissipated by shutting down the warp drive, but such an act might be initiated too late.





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